METRO / A17

Police rescue kidnap victim in Antipolo, kill 3 suspects in shootout

BUSINESS / B1

GMA orders sale of energy assets rushed

ACROSS / A14

1st LRT system outside Metro Manila sought in Cebu

BUSINESS / B1

BSP sees market relief from Fed cut

NEWS / A2

Senators say vehicle smugglers at Subic close to President Arroyo

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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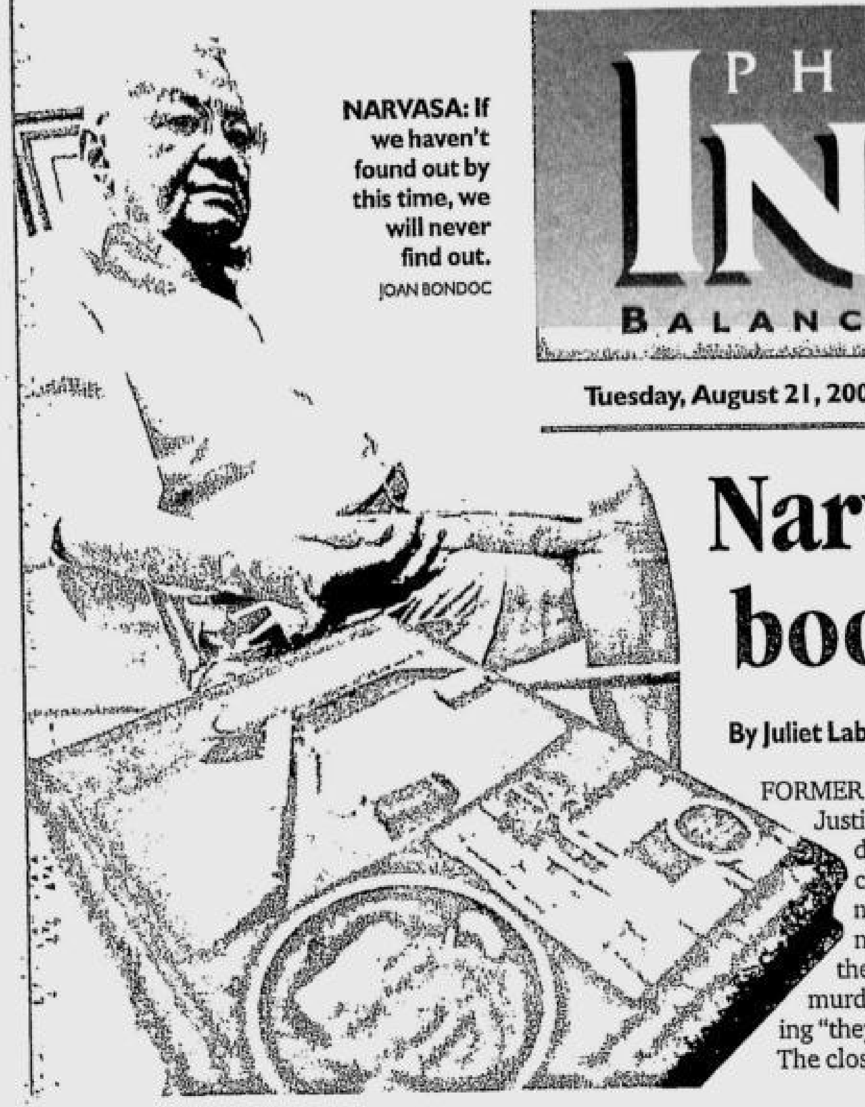


NARVASA: If we haven't found out by this time, we will never find out.
JOAN BONDOC

Narvasa: We should close book on Ninoy's murder

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FORMER SUPREME COURT CHIEF Justice Andres Narvasa yesterday said Filipinos should close the book on the assassination of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino and that the soldiers imprisoned for the murder should now be freed, saying "they have suffered enough."

The closure should be made even if the mastermind of the murder remained unknown, said Narvasa, lead counsel of the five-member Agrava fact-finding commission that concluded soldiers killed Aquino.

Aquino's assassination 24 years ago today at the Manila International Airport on his return from three years of self-exile in the United States sparked massive protests and led to the peaceful People Power revolution that oust-

NARVASA/ A15

2 guns that changed RP history rusting away

By Jocelyn R. Uy

RUSTING AWAY IN A MUSTY CHAMBER of a courthouse is the gun believed to have triggered the upheaval that altered Philippine history.

If the military's account of the Philippines' crime of the century were true, it was the same weapon that fired the fatal bullet

2 GUNS/ A15

SW-35
..12 - Olivas
8/3/80/90

THE SMITH and Wesson .357 Magnum pistol (top), found beside Rolando Galman, Aquino's alleged assassin and its "twin" gun (bottom) which surfaced in 1986.

No letup in war–AFP

Bodies of 13 Marines flown to Manila

Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao
Christine O. Avendaño

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY spurned Church calls for an end to its bloody offensive against the Abu Sayyaf, even as comrades of 15 Marines killed in clashes with the bandit group last weekend revealed that they had fought with Moro gunmen as young as 15 years old.

Amid outrage in the government over the recent series of military setbacks in Mindanao, hundreds of mourners buried at noon a 22-year-old Army lieutenant slain in a separate gun battle with the bandit group in Sulu 10 days ago.

Second Lt. Charlie Anthony Camelon was laid to rest in his hometown of Mauban, Quezon, to the sobbing of grieving relatives, the roll of drums and a bugler's playing of "taps." *(See related story on Page A5.)*

"The operations will continue unabated, unceasing," Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro told reporters.

"We have to apply the law. The instruction of the President is to continue the preparation for the total securi-

NO LETUP/ A5

DELFIN T. MALLARI JR., INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON/EDWIN BACASMAS

FACES OF GRIEF, DEATH
White uniformed "mistahs" carry the casket of their classmate, 2nd Lt. Charlie Anthony Camelon, who was laid to rest on Monday in his hometown of Mauban, Quezon. At right is the body of top Abu Sayyaf leader Puriji Indama, aka Kumander Not, who died in a firefight between the bandit group and the Marines.

Global stocks rebound but not out of woods yet

LONDON—WORLD STOCK MARKETS roared higher on Monday after last week's slump, but analysts warned of further turmoil for share prices owing to lingering concerns about borrowers' failure to repay US home loans.

Asian markets surged on Monday, taking their cue from Wall Street's recovery late last week after the US Federal Reserve cut a key interest rate.

Continuing the rebound they began with Wall Street on Friday, the London and Paris main indices jumped by 1 percent in morning trade after the Tokyo benchmark index jumped 3 percent.

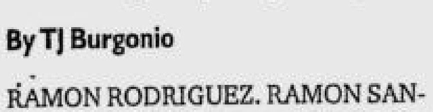
The Nikkei 225 closed the day up 458.80 points, at 15,732.48 points on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, recouping more than half of the 5.42 percent nosedive racked up on Friday—its largest single-day point loss since April 2000.

Australia's benchmark had its biggest one-day gain in almost a decade as the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 surged 4.6 percent, or 261.6 points, to close the day at its peak of 5,932.6 points.

Other regional markets also recovered, as the Fed's move was viewed as a sign the United States was taking the recent market volatility seriously.

Benchmarks bounced back 5.9 percent in Hong Kong, 2.3 percent in New Zealand, 5.7 percent in South Korea and 5.3 percent in Taiwan. The Shang-

GLOBAL STOCKS/ A4


SANA DUMAMI PA KAYO!

It's raining Ramons on Magsaysay Day

By TJ Burgonio

RAMON RODRIGUEZ. RAMON SANTOS. Ramon Gil Macapagal. Lucito Ramon Bertol.

Ramon Dondi. Ramon Borromeo. Ramon Aldea. Ramoncito Campos. Ramon Cardenas. Ramon Diaz. Ramoncito Ramos. Ramon Sales. Ramon Tulfo.

The list goes on.

Over 30 "Ramons" from different fields yesterday turned up at the

IT'S RAINING/ A15

EDUCATION IN CRISIS

Problems identified 15 years ago persist today–Angara

(Second of three parts)

-TEAM *Report*

By **Fernando del Mundo**
Chief

A CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION headed by Sen. Edgardo Angara dissected the Philippine education system 15 years ago and uncovered the same problems that still bedevil it today—except that they have taken a turn for the worse.

The commission report, submitted in December 1991 after a yearlong study, outlined what ailed the system:

- The quality of Philippine education was declining continuously.
- Elementary and high schools were failing to teach the competence that the average citizen needed to become responsible, productive and self-fulfilling.
- Colleges and technical/vocational schools were not producing the manpower that the country needed to develop its economy.
- Graduate education was mediocre. It did not generate the research-based knowledge needed to create more jobs and raise the value of production.

The commission report concluded that throwing money into the system would not be good enough. There would not be enough of it anyway in the next five to 10 years.

"There's only one thing we can do: We must extract more efficiency and

PROBLEMS/ A8

Poll shows most schools got books

By PDI Staff

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION appears to have plugged the loopholes in the delivery of textbooks and teaching manuals to the provinces, a survey conducted by INQUIRER reporters during the first week of August showed.

POLL/ A8

EZ2 24 19 | FOUR DIGIT 6 0 8 3

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

7 1 5 | 7 6 7

(All in exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45

7 11 17 24 27 41

P14,541,856.20

Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/08/20/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

SENATORS ON CRUSHED CARS

'Smugglers are close to GMA'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Jerome Aning

APPARENTLY UNIMPRESSED by the destruction of smuggled cars on orders of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Subic Freeport last week, some senators have said it would have been better if the Chief Executive had swept her own backyard to rid the country of its biggest vehicle smugglers.

"She might not know it but the biggest smuggler is in her close circle of friends," said Sen. Panfilo Lacson. "I have checked all the records regarding smuggling at Subic and Clark and only one name has emerged, one that is very close to the President."

Lacson said this smuggler, whom he refused to identify, was "untouchable" to the Bureau of Customs due to his Malacañang connection.

"Car smuggling has worsened at Subic and Clark since the President [took] office. The destruction of the smuggled vehicles, albeit graphic, was just all for show. What she has to do is crack down on her cronies responsible for this," Lacson said.

Sen. Richard Gordon, the founding chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said that smuggling had gotten worse at Subic and Clark largely because of people close to the President.

Gordon said one of the biggest smugglers operating out of the former American naval base was a "congressman" who was "very, very close to the President."

"This guy is not just into smuggling cars, he's also into smuggling other commodities like fuel, alcohol and cigarettes," Gordon said.

Lacson said the inadvertent inclusion of 14 luxury cars in the list of vehicles to be destroyed last week was part of the top smuggler's plan to control car smuggling at Subic.

"A syndicate is responsible for including even legitimate importers in the vehicle destruction," Lacson said. "The President might have unwittingly been used to help the top smuggler monopolize the entire Subic smuggling ring."

Fourteen of 32 vehicles slated for destruction were spared on Thursday while 18 cars, not all of them luxury editions, were destroyed by backhoes at the customs warehouse at Subic.

'Cars have papers'

The consignee of the 14 mostly luxury cars, Hidemitsu Trading Co., filed a motion for reconsideration of the decision to forfeit the cars, saying the vehicles were brought into the country with the proper papers and the taxes were paid.

The cars included a Lamborghini, a Ferrari, two Porsches and a BMW.

Lacson said he would push for a Senate investigation of the smuggling at Subic and Clark.

At the Bureau of Customs, Commissioner Napoleon Morales yesterday said he welcomed Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group chair Antonio Villar Jr.'s exposé of customs officials and employees involved in smuggling.

"I have no problem with that. If he really has evidence against them, then he should show it," Morales told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Morales said Villar and others pointing to bureau insiders as coddlers of smugglers "should back their allegations with solid evidence."

Morales said his own office was implementing reforms to weed out those involved not only in smuggling but other irregularities.

Public servants

"Our officials and employees have sworn duties and responsibilities. If they violate them they are held accountable since they are public servants. That's why we've been emphasizing accountability in all our transactions," Morales said.

He said the BOC's intensified "Run After The Smugglers" (Rats) program also covered customs officials and employees.

Process of validation

Villar, in a press conference at Malacañang on Sunday, had said the PASG was in the process of "validating" its list of suspected protectors of smugglers from the BOC. He said their number, including BOC examiners, could go over 100 nationwide.

Since January, Villar said, the PASG has seized P300-million worth of smuggled items. He said the government loses P50-60 billion annually due to smuggling.

He said reports reaching his office say corrupt BOC officials are paid P5,000 for every 20-foot container van and P10,000 for every 40-foot container van that they allow through customs unchecked.

GMA orders study on use of nuclear energy for power

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday gave Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes the go-signal to study the use of nuclear energy as a cheap source of power.

She gave her nod during an energy command conference called to assess the Department of Energy's implementation of her earlier directives to speed up the privatization of power assets and the lowering of power rates.

The latest presidential directive is expected to trigger a wave of protests from antinuclear groups led by the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition.

The coalition's campaign thrusts include blocking any attempt by the Philippine government to build nuclear power plants in any part of the country; advocating alternative, environment-friendly energy sources, and defending the pro-peace, antinuclear weapons provision of the Constitution.

Nuclear is cheaper

Reyes said that during the closed-door conference, Ms Arroyo approved the DOE recommendation to explore the possibility of putting up a nuclear power plant to supply a portion of the country's energy needs.

According to Reyes, nuclear energy is cheaper to produce, and almost all the countries in the region rely on nuclear power.

"The Philippines has one of the highest energy costs in the region," he said, stressing the shift to nuclear power would not take place immediately, not even during Ms Arroyo's term.

He said it would take at last 15 years to set up a nuclear power plant, and that nuclear experts had left the country soon after the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) was mothballed by the Aquino administration.

"Nuclear energy is one of the options the DOE (is considering)," said Reyes, adding that he was organizing a committee to seriously study the plan, including safety nets.

More investors

We should be open to this kind of energy source, he said, to make the country more attractive to investors seeking cheaper power rates.

Two years ago, Ms Arroyo floated the controversial idea by asking Reyes' predecessor, Energy Secretary Ruphael Lotilla, to check on the feasibility and advantages of using the BNPP instead of another plant.

On May 6, 2005, the President said in Limay, Bataan, that the mothballed BNPP could provide a solution to the country's energy requirements.

She said the government could use the plant to solve the energy problems of the country.

But she made it clear that she had no intention of operating the BNPP as a nuclear power plant because this was against the Constitution. Instead, Ms Arroyo believed the site could be converted into a generation or power plant, if investors were interested.

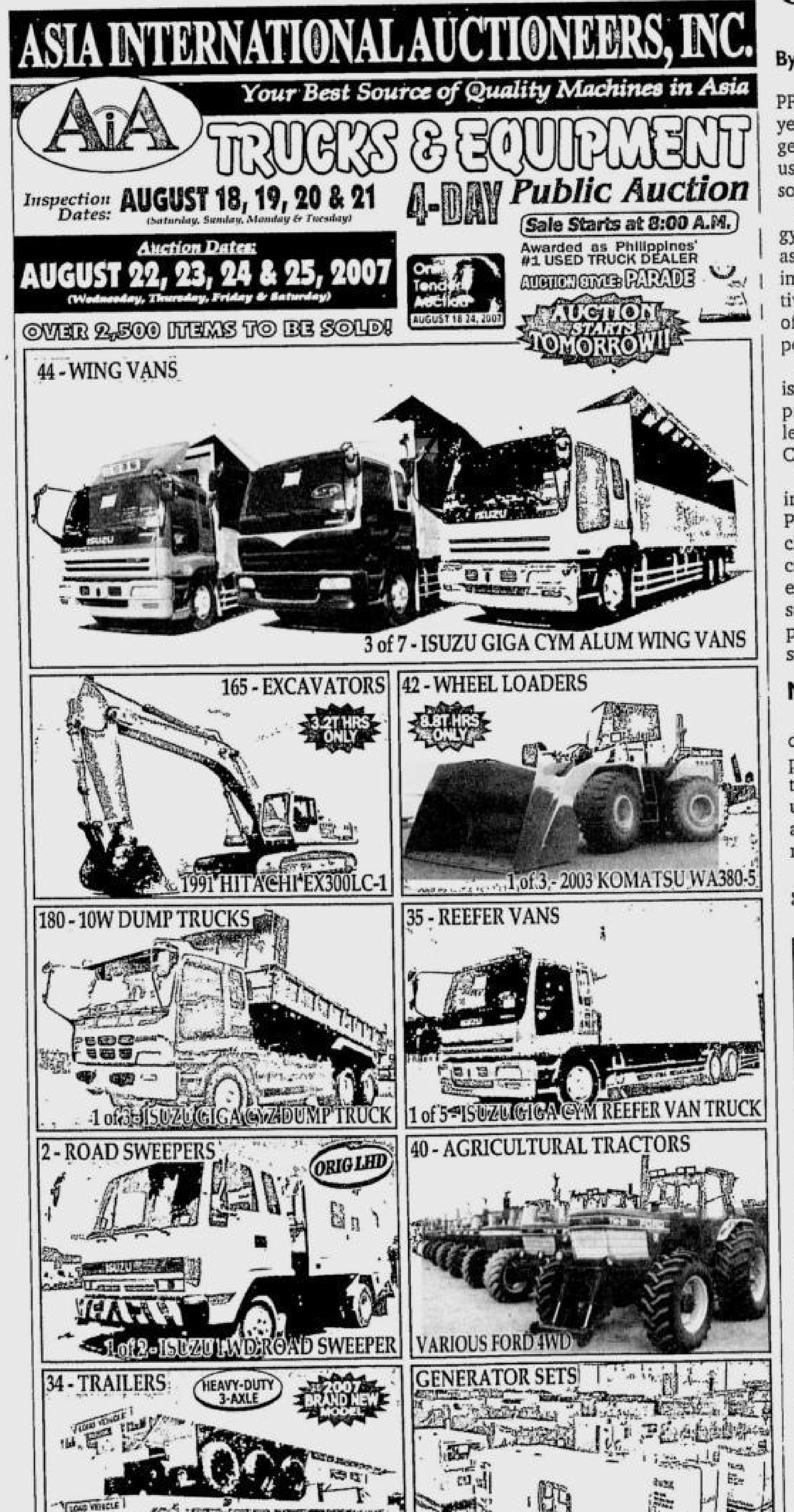
"The Constitution prohibits nuclearization," the President said, pointing also to the constitutional ban on nuclear weapons in the country.

Privatization of state assets

On the privatization of state assets, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President "believes that privatization of activities can be more efficiently handled by the private sector [and] will not only allow the government to concentrate on its core functions but will also help the government meet its deficit targets."

Lower power charges would not only benefit the average Filipino family but would also reduce the cost of "doing business in the Philippines and make the country more competitive," he said.

In her State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 23, the President urged Congress to amend the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), particularly the section requiring 70 percent privatization of the power sector.



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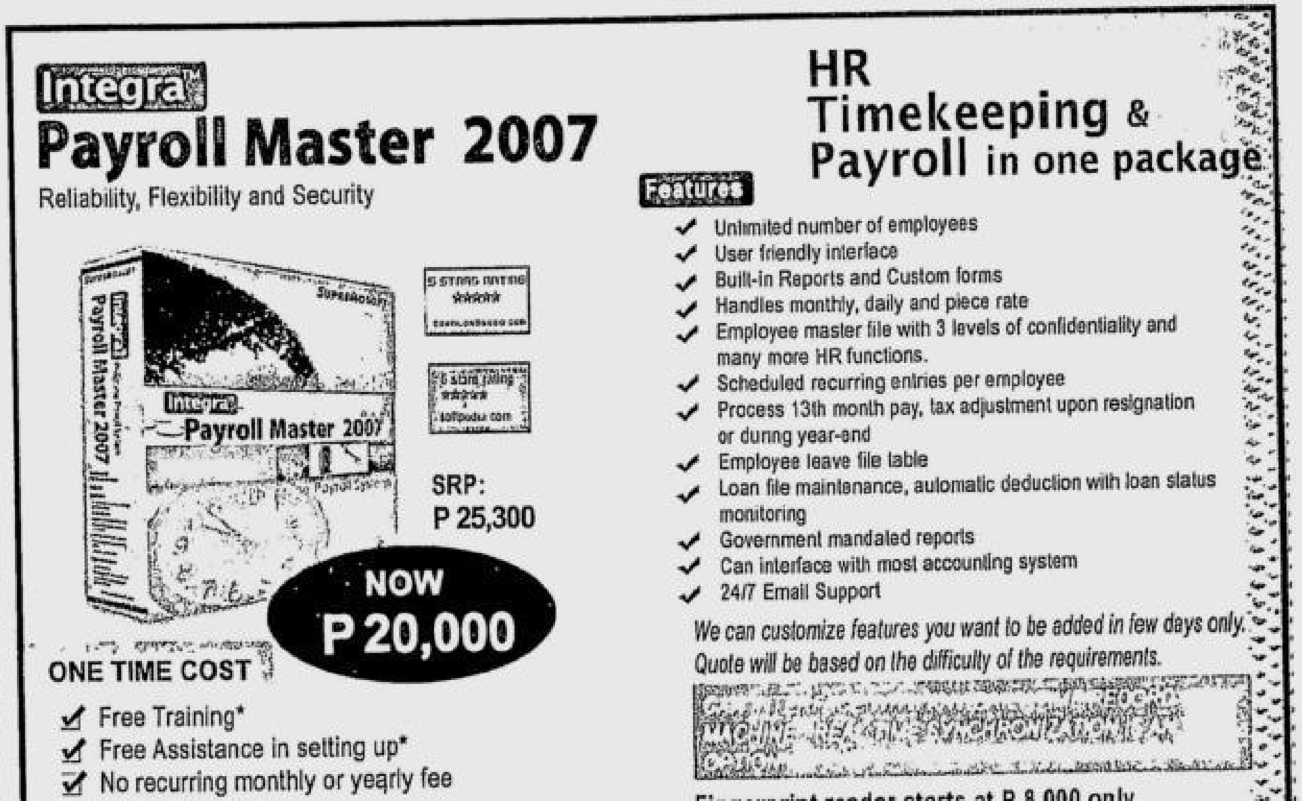

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Aliens focus of new immigration body

By Jerome Aning

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION has activated a 24-hour National Operations Center (NOC) at its main office in Intramuros, Manila, to monitor incidents involving foreigners and other immigration-related issues.

Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said yesterday the NOC, which would be under his supervision, was formed in view of the BI's status as one of the government's front-line agencies.

"There is a need to establish a center that would monitor significant developments affecting, or related to, the agency's mission and functions," he said.

Considered "significant," according to Libanan, are incidents involving foreigners and national security, such as foreign terrorists or the activists taking part in local rallies and demonstrations.

Also to be monitored are: arrest of foreigners involved in crimes like drug trafficking and kidnapping; arrest, exclusion and offloading of foreigners at the airports; implementation of hold-departure orders, and the escape of alien detainees from the BI jail in Bicutan, Taguig City.

Libanan noted that aside from regulating the entry and stay of aliens in the country, the BI also performs a vital role in carrying out the government's programs and policies on international relations, economic development and tourism.

"More importantly, our bureau plays a key and decisive role in the global war against transnational crimes and international terrorism," the commissioner said.

In his memorandum creating the NOC, Libanan said it would be the center's function to monitor and record important events and developments affecting the bureau with the support and participation of the immigration field offices and subports nationwide.

The center will be manned by 21 employees who will work round-the-clock, including weekends and holidays.

Events and developments monitored by the center will be reported daily to Libanan's office and the action taken will be immediately transmitted to the immigration office or government agency concerned in any part of the country.

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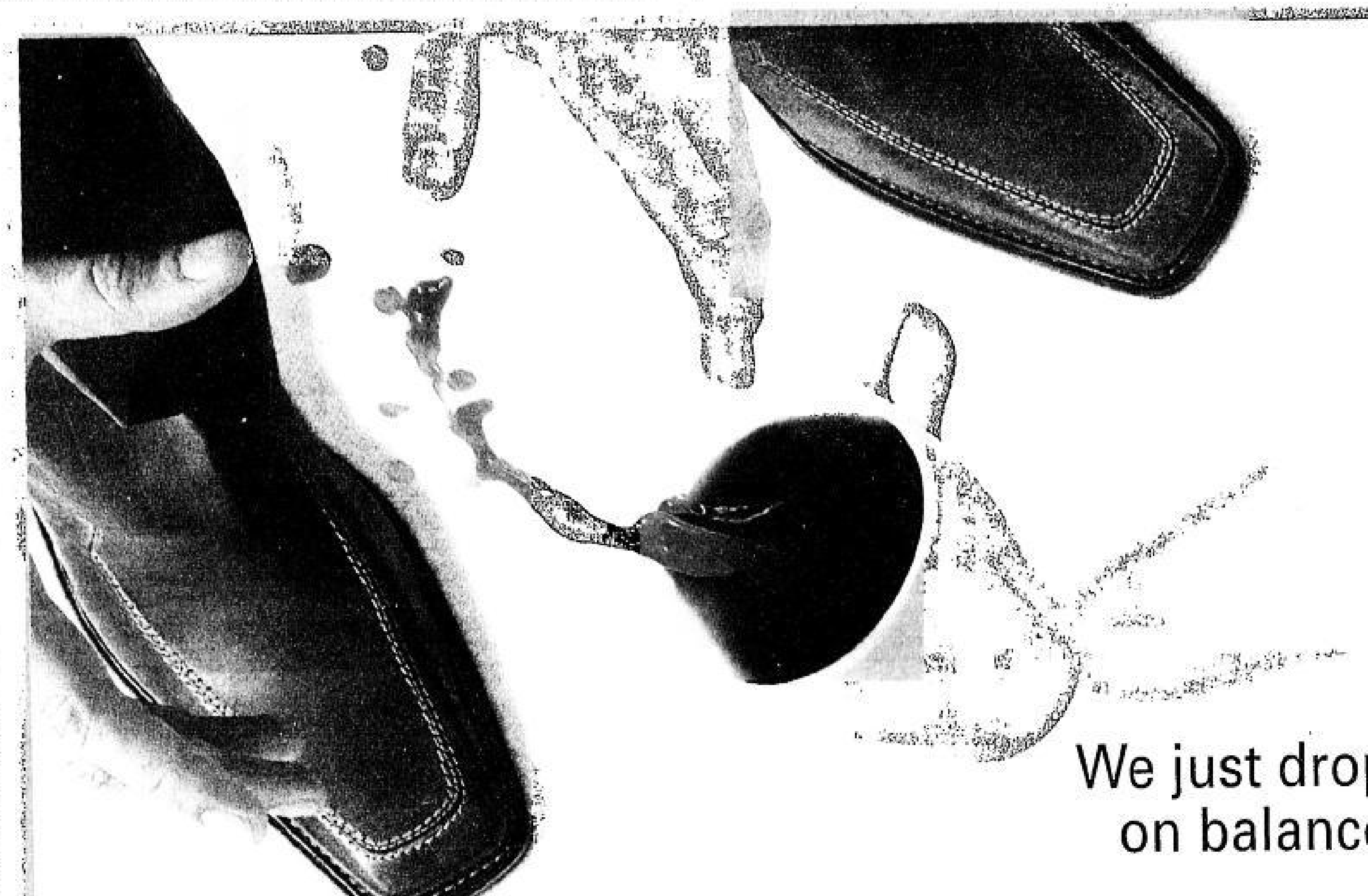

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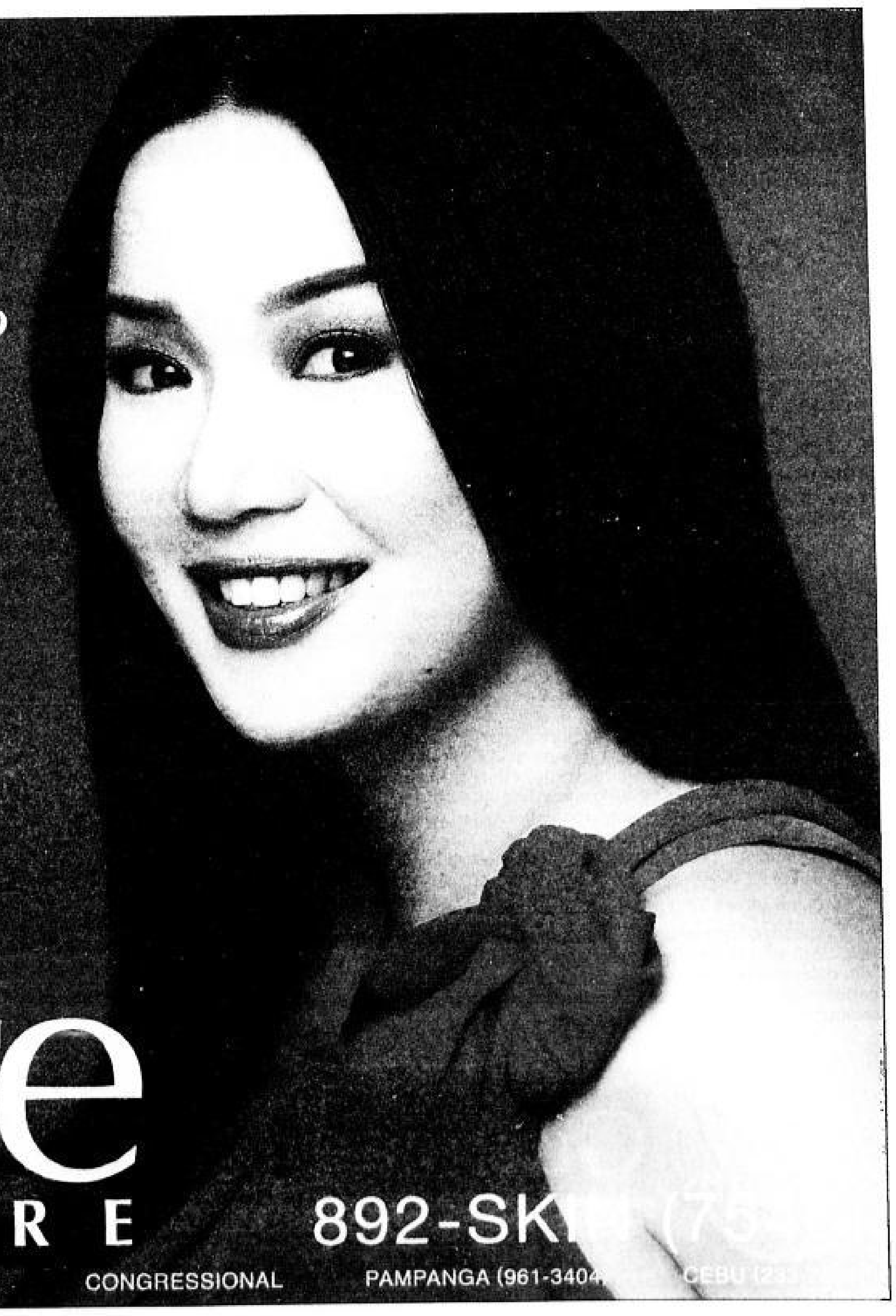

Kris: With Facial Care, Who Needs Cosmetic Surgery?

Kris Aquino puts a high priority on skincare. That's why she keeps herself looking flawless in spite of age, stress and other factors. But she won't take surgical risks when it comes to her face. "I don't want to risk getting permanent scars on my face. Compared to the body, you can't just cover it up with clothes. Besides, with advancements in non-invasive technology, you won't have to!" Kris says. "That's why I really trust Facial Care."

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 21, 2007
20th Week in Ordinary Time
Pius X

1st Reading: Jdg 6:11-24
Gospel: Matthew 19:23-30

Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I say to you: it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Yes, believe me: it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven."

On hearing this the disciples were astonished and said, "Who, then, can be saved?" Jesus looked steadily at them and answered, "For humans it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

Then Peter spoke up and said, "You see we have given up everything to follow you: what will be our lot?"

Jesus answered, "You who have followed me, listen to my words: on the Day of Renewal, when the Son of Man sits on his throne in glory, you, too, will sit on twelve thrones to rule the twelve tribes of Israel. As for those who have left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children or property for my Name's sake, they will receive a hundredfold and be given eternal life. Many who are now first will be last, and many who are now last will be first."

Commentary

The people have been conquered and an angel is sent to Gideon to rouse the people. The pattern is here as well—Gideon comes from the meanest house in Manasseh and he is the most insignificant of his family. This is whom God chooses. Gideon does sacrifice and realizes that he has been speaking to the messenger of God (angels and God are almost interchangeable in the earlier testament—they are the word of God given to a person who needs to do something for the people of God). He is told to be without fear.

We are to live without fear, without greed and hoarding. We are to live with graciousness to the poor, sharing what we have to others so that we have our treasure in heaven. Nothing is impossible with God: Incarnation, Resurrection, the Body of Christ. Nothing is impossible with God: the rich giving up their clutching of their riches to give to the poor and becoming followers of the Crucified one. Nothing is impossible with God. What impossible thing do we need to pray we should do and become today?

FVR, Reuter lead winners of Aquino awards

By Volt Contreras

THE AWARD RECOGNIZES outstanding efforts at Philippine nation-building, but this year's recipients also include an American priest who became "a Filipino by choice."

Fr. James Reuter Jr. was among the honorees in the 3rd Benigno S. Aquino Jr. Awards, a biennial citation conferred on individuals or organizations that serve as living models of nationalism for the youth.

Reuter joined former President Fidel Ramos and 10 other awardees, including two former senators, an election monitor, a consumer watchdog, a high school boys' choir, a folk musician and an educational TV channel.

The Aquino Awards were launched in 2003 by the Federation of Catholic Schools' Alumni Association, in partnership with the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines and the Good Citizenship Movement.

"We fittingly named the awards after 'Ninoy,' a modern nationalist figure, who gave his life for the country; we can't find a better idol for our youth today," said Br. Rolando Dizon FSC, FeCaSAA chair at last Saturday's award rites in Quezon City.

The program was among the commemorative activities leading to today's 24th anniversary of Aquino's martyrdom.

Hospitalized the past several days, Reuter, 91, was represented by a colleague nun at the awarding ceremonies held at the National College of Public Administration at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Accepting the award in his behalf was Sister Mary Sarah Manapol of St. Paul University, Quezon City.

"A Filipino by choice, this Jesuit priest has taught generations of young men and women the values of excellence, discipline, professionalism and love of country," his citation read.

"His passionate commitment to music, theater, radio and television have enabled him to inculcate these values needed for nation-building," it added.

Reuter was under a set of awardees cited for their "Social Artistry"—or the use of the arts to teach or inspire young people to live cherished values.

The Aquino Award for Social Artistry also went to educator-writer Maria Paz Lagdameo, former deputy director of the Manila Metropolitan Theater; pop music artist Joey Ayala, cited for his "well-celebrated songs (that capture) the essence of communion and community."

Others that received the award were Kundirana, an all-male singing group of high school students from the La Salle Greenhills, whose performances here and abroad include charity shows for the sick and elderly; the Philippine Educational Theater Association for fanning "passionate patriotism" through plays; and the Knowledge Channel, for its educational and "value-laden" programs aimed at helping children in far-flung areas overcome ignorance and poverty.

In another set of honorees, former President Ramos led the recipients in the Aquino Awards for Nationalism. He was particularly recognized for "enhancing the country's global competitiveness, and earning the respect of the international community."

The awards also recalled former Sen. Rene Saguisag's "impeccable record" as legislator and human rights lawyer; as well as former Sen. Wigberto Tañada's assertion of Philippine sovereignty in the removal of US military bases from Philippine soil in 1991.

Former ambassador Henrietta de Villa was feted for "restoring confidence in the electoral process and strengthening Philippine democracy" through her leadership in the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, a Church-backed poll watchdog.

The citation for businessman Raul Concepcion praised his "staunch advocacy in protecting and promoting the rights of Filipino consumers."

For leading a life of volunteerism for the last 50 years, Lourdes C. Quezon also received the award. She currently serves as corporate secretary of the Board of Governors of the Philippine National Red Cross.

Global stocks rebound but not out of woods yet

From page A1

hai Composite Index gained 5.3 percent, and Singapore's Straits Times Index gained 6.1 percent. Markets were also higher in India and Indonesia.

'Worst of crisis over'

French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde said that the worst of the US mortgage crisis was over even if some US investment houses and funds could still be in trouble.

Despite strong rises for global stocks on Monday, however, market players stressed the need for caution. "There's little to suggest that the rampant volatility we've seen of late is yet behind us," CMC Markets trader Adam Neal said.

"Some will be eyeing the significant sell-off as a buying opportunity, whilst the prospect of further credit market problems cannot be overlooked," Neal added.

In late morning trade, London's FTSE 100 index of leading shares jumped 0.97 percent higher at 6,123.00 points. The Paris CAC 40 rose 1.04 percent to 5,419.32 points and Frankfurt's DAX 30 gained 0.32 percent to 7,401.04.

European and US equities had risen sharply on Friday after the US Federal Reserve eased global economic fears by slashing one of its key interest rates.

London's FTSE 100 closed up 3.50 percent ahead of the weekend, after the British index on Thursday plunged 4.10 percent—the biggest fall since March 12, 2003, in the run-up to the US-led war on Iraq.

World stock markets had been tumbling since Aug. 9, as concerns mounted over the economic fallout from the weak subprime, or high-risk, home loan market in the United States.

Potentially volatile

"There is potential for the markets to remain volatile over the next few weeks as investors eye whether or not the central banks across Europe will cut interest rates," said Mark Priest, head of equity sales at Tradindex.

The US Federal Reserve on Friday cut the rate it charges commercial banks to 5.75 percent, saying that it wanted to restore order in financial markets that were hit by "increased uncertainty."

The move raised expectations that the Fed may also lower its key federal funds rate—the overnight rate banks charge each other—which has been left unchanged at 5.25 percent since June 2006.

"What happened in the markets last week was of cataclysmic proportions," said Mark Cutis, chief investment officer at Japan's Shinsei Bank.

Although Japanese equities looked cheap, last week's sell-off was only "a prelude to what's going to happen," Cutis said.

"We're expecting to see a much more vicious sell-off in October," he added, predicting that the Fed would probably cut its main interest rate in response.

Banks make move

In a further step to quell investor worries and in a bid to curb rises in key interest rates, however, the Bank of Japan on Monday injected US$8.3 billion into local money markets. The Reserve Bank of Australia as well bought US$2.7 billion of short-term securities.

Michael Kurtz, a strategist at Bear Stearns Asia Ltd., said Asian economies were so dependent on the health of the American economy these days, any sign of danger in the US economy is likely to rattle regional markets further.

"Although Asian institutions appear in aggregate to have minimal direct exposure to US subprime credit instruments, we think the region does remain hostage to any potential US real sector downside should US mortgage problems magnify," he said in a report.

Even if Asian financial organizations aren't directly exposed to damage from dubious lending in the United States, indirect fallout could last for weeks, contributing to investors' wariness, according to economists.

Patrick Mohr, strategist at Nikko Citigroup Ltd., a unit of Citigroup Inc., said the rampant nervousness meant that anything could send share prices fluctuating again.

"And we probably haven't seen the end of the bad news in subprime," he told Dow Jones Newswires.

Optimistic investors

Investors, however, appear optimistic, chasing shares higher across Asia, eager not to miss a recovery after recent heavy losses.

"While the US credit market crisis may not disappear overnight, the Fed's (rate) decision . . . has demonstrated their will to act and help reduce the uncertainty and volatility in the event that credit markets deteriorate further," DBS Vickers Securities of Singapore wrote in a note to clients.

"This should calm equity markets and end the indiscriminate selling," it said. *Reports from AP and AFP*

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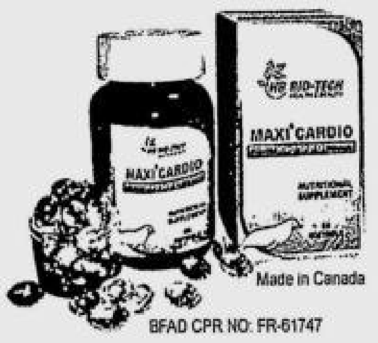

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Mauban buries Lieutenant Camelon at high noon

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.,
Inquirer Southern Luzon

MAUBAN, QUEZON—A YOUNG war hero was buried with full military honors at high noon yesterday, to the tears of grieving relatives and a bugler's plaintive rendition of "Taps."

Only 22, 2nd Lt. Charlie Anthony Camelon was laid to rest in a simple concrete tomb at the Divine Angels Memorial Park in the village of San Anghel, outside the town proper.

Amid the roll of snare drums and the playing of "Taps" followed by a gun salute, Charlie's "mistahs"—or classmates—in Philippine Military Academy "Maragtas" (Marangal na Tagapagligtas) Class of 2007 executed snappy salutes in a final homage.

Close relatives broke into sobs.

Most of Camelon's mistahs were teary-eyed.

Crumpled piece of paper

A crumpled piece of paper with the scribbled lyrics of the PMA Alma Mater Song was pinned to the casket.

One of Charlie's mistahs placed a Marlboro cigarette and a disposable lighter in the coffin.

Krisha, Charlie's 16-year-old sister, cried as she delivered the family's message of gratitude to the mourners.

"He was the best brother for me," Krisha said.

Marine 2nd Lt. John Herbert Mananghaya, Charlie's best friend and roommate at the academy, vowed to pursue Camelon's battle.

Fight will go on

"We will continue the fight for the country and for the people," he said.

Twelve pallbearers, Charlie's mistahs in their white uniform with black ribbon arm bands, slowly removed the flag draped over the casket and folded it in the customary triangular fashion.

Army Lt. Col. Jupiter Ando, of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command, handed the folded flag to Charlie's father, retired Army Scout Ranger M/Sgt. Miguelito Camelon.

Charlie was serving in Mindanao on his first assignment as platoon leader in the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion.

Ten days ago, he was killed while leading his men in a fierce three-hour gunfight with the Abu Sayyaf in Maimbung, Sulu, in which 15 of his comrades were also slain.

First casualty

He was the first battlefield casualty of his class.

More than 40 of his mistahs assigned in different parts of the archipelago all traveled to this sleepy town in front of Lamon Bay to bid their classmate farewell.

Mananghaya, who spoke on behalf of the class, said that as soldiers, they had long accepted the fact that death was part of their profession.

"All of us are ready to offer our life for the country," he said.

Mananghaya said taking revenge for the death of their classmate would never be a part of their missions.

"Charlie knew this. Bullheadedness does not have a place in our daily military life. We should always have to remain focused and follow the chain of command," he stressed.

He also downplayed the "stop the war" calls from families of other slain soldiers.

"We sincerely know that it's only their initial reaction to the pain and anguish of losing a loved one on the battlefield. We understand them," Mananghaya said.

No letup in Basilan-Sulu offensive, says AFP

From page A1

ty of Mindanao."

Teodoro spoke as a C-130 transport plane carrying the bodies of 13 of the 15 soldiers killed in clashes with the Abu Sayyaf last weekend arrived at Villamor Air Base last night.

"I understand the position of the bishops but we must also understand that we are fighting terrorists here," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said. "There's no way but to continue the operations against the Abu Sayyaf."

"We will explain our position to the bishops," Esperon added.

Teodoro and Esperon made the statements after Basilan's Roman Catholic Bishop Martin Jumoad and a nationwide association of priests and nuns appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo for an end to the bloodbath. The bishop said the death of the young soldiers—ranging in age from 22 to 24—was a waste of lives.

In Zamboanga City, 2nd Lt. Jordan Argete, who was with the Marines killed in Saturday's Basilan battle, admitted to reporters that the Abu Sayyaf had the edge of fighting from high ground, were "fully armed with heavy type of weapons and they were all young, as young as 15 years old."

Argete and fellow Marine officers 1st Lt. Rowan Rimas and 2nd Lt. Paolo Jose Jandusay denied they were caught "like sitting ducks" during the Basilan clash, as a town mayor had recounted on tape to the INQUIRER.

Rimas admitted that he and his men were in a "*dehado* (disadvantaged) situation" when they encountered the bandit group linked to Osama bin Laden's global terror network.

Familiar with terrain

Jandusay said: "The enemy had memorized the terrain, it was their area."

Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Eugenio Cedo lashed out at the INQUIRER for reporting the lapses in Saturday's clash in Unkaya Pukan town in Basilan.

Instead of explaining the factors behind the biggest number of casualties under his watch—a total of seven officers and 50 enlisted personnel killed a little over a month—Cedo ignored questions from reporters and called the INQUIRER report incorrect.

Cedo left immediately without taking his angry eyes off the INQUIRER correspondent as the other reporters fell quiet at the general's outburst.

Recorded on tape

The INQUIRER story was based on an interview with Unkaya Pukan Mayor Joel Maturan, who said on tape that the soldiers were "*pinagbabaril na parang ibon* (shot at like birds)" by the Abu Sayyaf.

Speaking in the company of military officers at Edwin Andrews Air Base, Maturan yesterday disowned his taped remarks.

He said what he told the INQUIRER was that members of the Abu Sayyaf Group were positioned on higher ground and enjoyed the cover of heavy foliage and boulders, unlike the Marines who were positioned below.

"What I said was that the Abu Sayyaf were just meters away ... Because of their bravery, many Marines died," Maturan said in Filipino, retracting his earlier statements.

Theories not enough

The three Marine officers agreed that mastery of the terrain favored the bandit group.

Jandusay said that "many of my classmates were so young, fresh graduates from the basic school for Marines."

He said he and his fellow officers were new graduates from the Philippine Military Academy and lacked experience. He said they had learned theories on fighting "but you cannot obtain experience from training."

"We are complete with theories but we still need maturity when it comes to fighting (*kailangan namin ng kaunting gulang pagdating sa laban*)," he said.

Heads must roll

In Manila, opposition Sen. Francis Escudero called on President Arroyo to fire incompetent and disloyal officers to ensure "tangible results" from the continued deployment of warm bodies to Mindanao.

"They should sack incompetent and disloyal officers, should there be any. Another is to investigate thoroughly all government officials, elected or appointed, for complicity with the enemy, however close they may be to the administration party."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon blamed defective weapons and poor intelligence for the military debacles, while jailed Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV claimed some officials whom he did not identify had connived with the enemy, dooming the Marines in Basilan.

'Human offensive'

Ms Arroyo yesterday ordered the Department of Energy and the Department of Education to conduct a "humanitarian offensive" in Basilan and Sulu to assist civilians affected by the ongoing military offensive.

According to Ms Arroyo, the "humanitarian offensive" includes the putting up of solar-powered science laboratories "in the hinterlands of Basilan and Sulu" to enable students to continue their studies despite the fighting.

"We'd like to do a humanitarian offensive in Basilan and Sulu and the assignment of the Department of Energy, together with the DepEd, would be to put up solar-powered science laboratories for students in the hinterlands of Sulu and Basilan," she said.

On Esperon's orders, the 13 slain soldiers brought to Manila last night were given posthumous one-rank promotions. Each of their aluminum caskets was draped in the Philippine flag. A flag also covered the casket of an Air Force pilot killed during the incident. He was also promoted.

Top military and defense officials honored each soldier with a salute as their remains were unloaded from the plane.

Relatives sobbed as a priest blessed each casket. Other grieving relatives, kept in the terminal, peeked through glass windows.

Alex Vergara, father of the slain Marine Danilo, did not want to believe his son was dead until he saw the casket for himself.

"When I saw him, I had no choice but to accept it, even if it's very painful," he said. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Tarra Quismundo*

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Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Roxas Boulevard corner Pablo Ocampo, Sr. Street
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DEPARTMENT ORDER NO.29-07

August 15, 2007

RULES AND REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9480

Pursuant to Section 15 Republic Act No. 9480, "An Act Enhancing Revenue Administration and Collection By Granting An Amnesty On all Unpaid Internal Revenue Taxes Imposed by the National Government For Taxable year 2005 and Prior Years," the following rules and regulations are hereby promulgated to implement the provisions of said Act.

RULE I

TITLE, PURPOSE AND CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 1. ***Title and Purpose.***-These rules and regulations, to be known and cited as the "Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) No. 9480." Otherwise known as "Tax Amnesty Act of 2007", are hereby promulgated to govern the availment by qualified persons and/or entities of the tax amnesty granted under RA 9480, covering all unpaid internal revenue taxes for the taxable year 2005 and prior years.

SEC. 2. ***Construction.***-These Rules shall be construed and applied in accordance with and in furtherance of the policies and objectives of RA 9480. In case of conflict or ambiguity, which may arise in the implementation of these Rules, the Department of Finance (DOF), in coordination with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), shall issue the necessary clarification.

RULE II

Coverage

SEC. 3. ***Taxes Covered.***-The tax amnesty shall cover all national revenue taxes imposed by the National Government for the taxable year 2005 and prior years, with or without assessments duly issued therefore, that have remained unpaid as of December 31, 2005.

SEC. 4. ***Who May Avail of Tax Amnesty.***-The following may avail of the tax amnesty under RA 9480.

1. Individuals, whether resident or nonresident citizens, or resident or nonresident aliens;
2. Estates and trusts;
3. Corporations;
4. Cooperatives and tax exempt entities that have become taxable of December 31' 2005; and
5. Other judicial entities including partnerships.

For this purpose, an individual taxpayer in his/her own capacity shall be treated as a different taxpayer when he acts as administrator/executor of the estate of a deceased taxpayer. The pertinent provisions of Sec. 236 of the Tax Code on the registration of the estate of the decedent by the administrator or executor and the issuance of new TIN shall be complied with. Therefore, an individual taxpayer, seeking to avail of the tax amnesty and who at the same time is an executor or administrator of the estate of deceased taxpayer who would also like to avail of the tax amnesty, shall file two (2) separate amnesty returns, one for himself as a taxpayer and the other in his capacity as executor or administrator of the estate of the decedent with respect to the revenue and other income earned or received by the estate.

SEC. 5. ***Exceptions.***-The tax amnesty shall not extend to the following persons or cases existing as of the effectivity of RA 9480:

1. Withholding agents with respect to their withholding tax liabilities;
2. Those with pending cases falling under the jurisdiction of the Presidential Commission on Good Government;
3. Those with pending cases involving unexplained or unlawfully acquired wealth, revenue or income under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act;
4. Those with pending cases filed in court involving violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Law;
5. Those with pending criminal cases filed in court or in the Department of Justice for tax evasion and other criminal offenses under Chapter II of Title X of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.
6. Tax cases subject of final and executory judgment by the courts.

RULE III

AVAILMENT AND PAYMENT OF AMNESTY

SEC. 6. Method of Availment of Tax Amnesty-

1. ***Forms/Documents to be filed.*** - To avail of the general tax amnesty, concerned taxpayers shall file the following documents/requirements:

a. Notice of Availment in such form as may be prescribed by the BIR.

b. Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Networth (SALN) as of December 31, 2005 in such form, as may be prescribed by the BIR.

c. Tax Amnesty Return in such form as may be prescribed by the BIR.

2. ***Place of Filing of Amnesty Tax Return.*** - The Tax Amnesty Return, together with the other documents stated in Sec. 6 (1) hereof, shall be filed as follows:

a. Residents shall file with the Revenue District Officer (RDO)/Large Taxpayer District Office of the BIR which has jurisdiction over the legal residence or principal place of business of the taxpayer, as the case may be.

b. Non-residents shall file with the office of the Commissioner of the BIR, or with the RDO.

c. At the option of the taxpayer, the RDO may assist the taxpayer in accomplishing the forms and computing the taxable base and the amnesty tax payable, but may not look into, question or examine the veracity of the entries contained in the Tax Amnesty Return, Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Networth, or such other documents submitted by the taxpayer.

3. ***Payment of Amnesty Tax and Full Compliance.***-Upon filing of the Tax Amnesty Return in accordance with Sec. 6 (2) hereof, the taxpayer shall pay the amnesty tax to the authorized agent bank or in the absence thereof, the Collection Agents or duly authorized Treasurer of the city or municipality in which such person has his legal residence or principal place of business.

The RDO shall issue sufficient Acceptance of Payment Forms, as may be prescribed by the BIR for the use of - or to be accomplished by - the bank, the collection agent or the Treasurer, showing the acceptance by the amnesty tax payment. In case of the authorized agent bank, the branch manager or the assistant branch manager shall sign the acceptance of payment form.

The Acceptance of Payment Form, the Notice of Availment, the SALN, and the Tax Amnesty Return shall be submitted to the RDO, whish shall be received only after complete payment. The completion of these requirements shall be deemed full compliance with the provisions of RA 9480.

4. ***Time for Filing and Payment of Amnesty Tax.***-The filing of the Tax Amnesty Return, together with the SALN, and the payment of the amnesty tax shall be made within six (6) months from the effectivity of these Rules.

SEC. 7. ***Tax Amnesty Rates.*** - In order to enjoy the benefits of the tax amnesty program, the qualified taxpayers are required to pay an amnesty tax equivalent to five percent (5%) of their total declared networth as of December 31, 2005, as declared in the SALN as of the said period, or resulting increase in networth by amending such previously filed statements for purposes of this tax amnesty, thereby including still undeclared assets and/or liabilities, as the case may be, as of December 31, 2005, or the absolute minimum amnesty payment, whichever is higher, in accordance with the following schedule:

1. Individuals (whether resident or nonresident citizens, including resident or nonresident aliens), Estates and Trusts	5% or P50,000 whichever is higher
2. Corporations (a) With subscribed capital above P50 Million (b) With subscribed capital above P20 Million up to P50 Million (c) With subscribed capital of P5 Million to P20 Million (d) With subscribed capital of P5Million	 5% or P500,000 whichever is higher 5% or P250,000 whichever is higher 5% or P100,000 whichever is higher 5% or P25,000 whichever is higher
3. Other judicial entities, including partnerships, but not limited to, cooperatives and foundations, that have become taxable as of December 31, 2005	5% or P50,000 whichever is higher
4. Taxpayers who filed their balance sheets/SALN, together with their income tax returns for 2005, and who desire to avail of the tax amnesty under this Act by amending such previously file statements thereby including still undeclared assets and/or liabilities	5% base on the resulting increase in networth or the minimum absolute amounts of amnesty tax prescribed above, whichever is higher.

RULE IV

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NETWORTH

SEC. 8. ***Contents of the SALN.***-The SALN shall contain a true and complete declaration of assets liabilities and networth of the taxpayer as of December 31, 2005, as follows:

1. Assets within or without the Philippines, whether real or personal, tangible or intangible, whether or not used in trade or business:

a. Real properties shall be accompanied by a description of their classification, exact location, and valued at acquisition cost, if acquired by purchase, or the zonal valuation or fair market value, whichever is higher, if acquired through inheritance or donation;

b. Personal properties other than money, shall be accompanied by a specific description of the kind and number of assets (i.e. automobiles, shares of stock, etc.) or other investments, indicating the acquisition cost less depreciation or amortization, in proper cases, if acquired by purchase, or the fair market price or value at the time of receipt, if acquired through inheritance or donations;

c. Assets denominated in foreign currency shall be converted into the corresponding Philippine currency equivalent, at the rate of exchange prevailing as of December 31, 2005; and

d. Cash on hand and in bank in peso as of December 31, 2005, as well as Cash on Hand and in Bank in foreign currency, converted to peso as of December 31, 2005.

2. All existing liabilities which are legitimate and enforceable, secured or unsecured, whether or not incurred in trade or business, disclosing or indicating clearly the name and address of the creditor and the amount of the corresponding liability.

3. The total networth of the taxpayer, which shall be difference between the total assets and total liabilities.

SEC. 9. ***Presumption of Correctness of the SALN.*** - The corresponding SALN as of December 31, 2005 filed by the taxpayer desiring to avail of the tax amnesty shall be presumed true and correct, except in the following cases:

1. Where the amount of the declared networth is understated to the extent of thirty percent (30%) or more as may be established in proceedings initiated within one (1)-year following the date of filing of the Tax Amnesty Return and the SALN, by, or the instance of parties other than the BIR or its agents, as when any person, entity or government agency informs the BIR, with sufficient evidence, that the amount of the declared networth is understated to the extent of thirty percent (30%) or more.
2. When findings of or admission in congressional hearings or proceedings in administrative agencies of the government, and in courts, prove that there is at least thirty percent (30%) under-declaration.

RULE V

IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES

SEC. 10. ***Immunities and Privileges.***-Taxpayers who have fully complied with the conditions under RA 9480 and these rules shall be entitled to the following immunities and privileges:

1. The taxpayer shall be immune from the payments of taxes, as well as additions thereto, and the appurtenant civil, criminal or administrative penalties under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, arising from the failure to pay any and all internal revenue taxes year 2005 and prior years.
2. The taxpayer's Tax Amnesty Return and the SALN as of December 31, 2005 shall not be admissible as evidence in all proceedings that pertain to taxable year 2005 and prior years, insofar as such proceedings relate to internal revenue taxes, before judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative bodies in which he is a defendant or respondent and, except for the purpose of ascertaining the networth beginning January 1, 2006, the same shall not be examined, inquired or looked into by any person or government office. However, the taxpayer may use this as a defense, whenever appropriate, in cases brought against him.
3. The books of accounts and other records of the taxpayer for the years covered by the tax amnesty availed of shall not be examined by the BIR. However, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue may authorize in writing the examination of the said books of accounts an other records to verify the validity or correctness of a claim for any tax refund, tax credit (other than refund or credit of taxes withheld on wages), tax incentives, and/or exemptions under existing laws.

The above-stated immunities and privileges shall not apply where the person failed to file a SALN and the Tax Amnesty Return, or where the amount of networth as of December 31, 2005 is proven to be understated to the extent of thirty percent (30%) or more, in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of RA 9480 and Section 9; Rule IV hereof.

RULE VI

OFFENSES AND PENALTIES

SEC. 11. ***Penalties.***-For violations of RA 9480, the following rules on sanctions and penalties shall apply:

1. Any person who, having filed a Tax Amnesty Return or SALN under this Act, willfully understates his networth to the extent of thirty percent (30%) or more shall, upon conviction, be subject to the penalties of perjury under the Revised Penal Code.
2. The willful failure to declare any property in the SALN and/or in the Tax Amnesty Return shall be deemed a prima facie evidence of fraud and shall constitute a ground upon which attachment of such property may be issued in favor of the BIR to answer to the satisfaction of any judgment that may be acquired against the declarant.
3. In addition to the penalties provided in paragraphs (1) and (2) above, immediate tax fraud investigation shall be conducted to collect all taxes due, including increments, and to criminally prosecute those found to have willfully evaded lawful taxes due.
4. In the case of associations, partnerships, or corporations, the penalty shall be imposed on the partner, president, general manager, branch manager, treasurer, officer-in-charge and employees responsible for the violation.
5. If the offender is an officer or employee of the BIR or any government entity, he/she shall likewise suffer an additional penalty of perpetual disqualification to hold public office, to vote and to participate in any public election.

SEC. 12. ***Unlawful Divulgence.***-Any person who makes an unlawful divulgence of the Tax Amnesty Return or the SALN shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six years but not more than ten (10) years. However, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue may disclose the content of the Tax Amnesty Return and the SALN upon request of the Congress and in aid of legislation pursuant to and strictly in accordance with Section 20 (A) or Section 290 of the Tax Code.

RULE VII

FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 13. ***Information Management Program.*** - For the purposes of enhancing revenue administration, revenue collection and policy formulation, the DOF in coordination with the BIR, Land Registration Authority, Department of Trade and Industry, Securities and Exchange Commission, Land Transportation Office, and other concerned agencies shall institute an Information Management Program (IMP) for the effective use of information declared or obtainable from the Tax Amnesty Returns and the SALNs required to the filed under RA 9480 and these Rules. To ensure the efficiency and accuracy of the IMP, all the above-named agencies shall share and submit all the necessary data and information that shall be requested by the DOF for the purpose, as soon as they are available.

The amount equivalent to Four Hundred Million Pesos (P400,000,000.00) from the collections of the tax amnesty program shall accrue to the DOF and shall be used exclusively for purposes of instituting a Management Information System as mandated under Section 12 of RA 9480.

SEC. 14. ***Publication of List of Taxpayers and Filers.***-As provided under Section 15 of RA 9480, the provisions of Sections 71 and 270 of the Tax Code and Section 26 of Republic Act No. 6388 to the contrary notwithstanding, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall, on or before May 31 following the close of each year calendar year, prepare a list containing the names of all taxpayers, their gross income and amount of income taxes paid for the immediately preceding taxable year, and allow the publication of the same in at least two newspapers of general circulation or the Bureau of Internal Revenue website.

SEC. 15. ***Moratorium on the Grant of Tax Amnesty.***-In order to encourage and improve tax compliance by taxpayers, it is hereby declared as a matter of policy that the grant of tax amnesty, in whatever manner and form, shall not henceforth be allowed, provided that this moratorium shall likewise apply to any administrative tax amnesty by the BIR. It is understood, however, that any compromise or abatement under Sec. 204 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, shall not be construed as an administrative amnesty.

SEC. 16. ***Separability Clause.***-If for any reason, any section or provision of these Rules be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 17. ***Repealing Clause.***-All orders, circulars, memoranda, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with these Rules, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 18. ***Effectivity.***-These Rules shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

DONE in the City of Manila, Philippines, this 15 day of August 2007.

MARGARITO B. TEVES
Secretary of Finance

Upon the effectivity of the above Implementing Rules and Regulations, or fifteen (15) days from today, the Congressional Committee on Oversight, together with the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue will conduct a road show which seeks to promote the coverage and benefits of availing the tax amnesty under Republic Act No. 9480, in the following places:

Baguio City
Tagaytay City
Legaspi City
Cebu City
Cagayan de Oro City
Zamboanga City
Makati City
Manila
Angeles City
Lucena City
Tacloban City
Iloilo City
Davao City
General Santos City
Quezon City
Valenzuela City

The road show will be scheduled in the months of September and October.

Congressman Danilo E. Suarez (sgd.)
Chairman
Congressional Committee on Oversight

Honasan: Coup attempts contributed to RP dev't

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT HAS not brought remorse to Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan who launched a series of bloody coup attempts in the late '80s.

The cashiered Army colonel said yesterday he did not regret his attempts to overthrow the Aquino administration which cost lives and affected the country's fragile economy.

He said the coups he launched contributed to the country's democratic development.

"Ah yes, any lesson, good or bad, is worth learning. It contributes to our development," he said.

Honasan also wanted to set the record straight: He led two, not seven, coup attempts against the Aquino administration— the bloodiest ones on Aug. 28, 1987 and Dec. 1, 1989.

He said he was involved in a third "coup d'etat," which was how he referred to the historic Edsa People Power revolt on Feb. 22-26, 1986, that toppled the 14-year old Marcos dictatorship.

The subject of coup came up during Honasan's news conference at the Senate press office yesterday.

He was asked if he regretted leading the coup attempts. Without hesitating, Honasan replied, "No."

Neither did he feel responsible for the economic setbacks the country suffered as a result of the uprisings.

"*Hindi* (No). I have no regrets because one time we got to talk to (former National Economic and Development Authority chief) Professor (Solita) Winnie Monsod. We were still underground them," Honasan said.

"[I asked her] 'Ma'am, did we cause the downfall of the economy?' She said, 'No, you are not that good.' It was already on its way down; we just accelerated it," he said.

Honasan said the civilian and military casualties were inevitable "collateral damage" which he regrets.

However, he could not remember how many people were killed during the coups.

"*Nakalimutan ko na. Pero mas maraming namatay doon sa* flash floods *sa* Ormoc. About 8,000 people in two hours *kaysa sa* whole coup and uprisings combined. *Iyon ang alam ko* (I can't recall. But there were more casualties in the flash floods in Ormoc than in all the coups combined)," he said, referring to the deadly floods in Leyte in 1991.

He also said he did not feel responsible for the attack on former President Corazon Aquino's only son, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III outside Malacañang during the Aug. 28 coup. ***(See related story on Page A16.)***

Noynoy survived five bullet wounds. One bullet is still lodged in his neck. Three of his four security escorts were killed, the fourth was wounded.

Honasan said he talks to Noynoy "casually," but neither has raised the subject of the 1987 coup d'etat.

"There is no occasion to [talk about it]. *Pero* (But) I suppose he wants to move forward also," he said.

Unlike the rest of the military rebels, Honasan was never imprisoned for his coup attempts.

In 1995, all rightist rebels were given amnesty by the Ramos administration.

Honasan said he was in favor of granting a similar amnesty to the Magdalo officers, including Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, who staged the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

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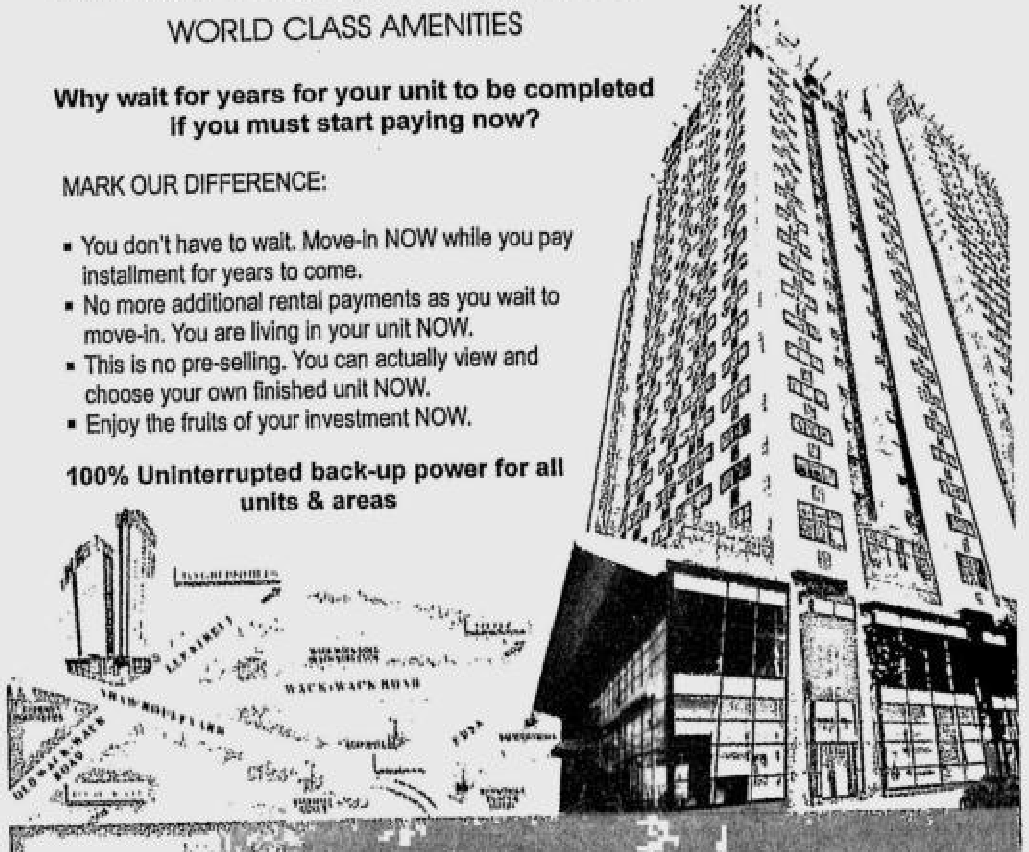

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Working To Build A Healthier Nation Starts With The Community

Gawad Kalinga, in partnership with Pfizer Philippines Foundation, Inc. unveils GAWAD KALUSUGAN.

Beyond the facade of well-appointed villages and plush subdivisions, are communities where electricity is scarce and where the water supply is not abundant. Surprisingly, the disposition of the residents are what you would not normally expect--- determined and in high spirits to live a healthy way of life. These are the communities of Gawad Kalinga. To date, Gawad Kalinga is in over 1,400 communities all over the Philippines and in other developing countries.

But Gawad Kalinga doesn't just stop with the building of houses; rather, it equips the community through programs on child and youth development, productivity, environment, and now, health through GAWAD KALUSUGAN with Pfizer Philippines Foundation, Inc., as its partner.

Through the years, Pfizer has consistently championed the development of modern medicines to give everyone a longer, healthier life. Its corporate programs too, have always focused on sustainable and high impact health and education programs, the pillars of empowered communities. Recognizing this need in its communities, Gawad Kalinga partnered with Pfizer...giving birth to Gawad Kalusugan, now under the leadership of Dr. Joe Yamamoto. Gawad Kalusugan is a health development program that aims to empower and equip Gawad Kalinga communities, starting with the one built in Towerville, Bulacan. With the help of community doctors, Health Care Volunteers (HCVs), Kapitbahayan leaders and the local health unit, this endeavor will span for 3 years, to effectively develop and implement relevant and necessary health programs for the community. The vision is that these communities will be able to stand on their own, adopting health as a way of life. As Mr. Albert Mateo, Pfizer Foundation Chairman reiterated, "Gawad Kalusugan is so much more than a medical mission,wherein health program delivery is mostly on a short-term basis." He also noted that in empowering a community, "the community members are the perfect health advocates because they are the ones who know the community best."

According to Dr. Eric Cayabyab, Gawad Kalusugan's National Coordinator, the program has three important components. First is the Capacity Enhancement Program, where health care volunteers from the community are educated and trained in various health orientation seminars and project management, to identify health issues and sustainable solutions. The community doctors from Gawad Kalinga and the local government, are sent to acquire masteral degrees at the University of the Philippines Manila, with the clear endeavor of giving them the capacity and mindset to become better health leaders.

The second component of Gawad Kalusugan is the availability and accessibility of various Health Care Services and programs to the community. Currently, Gawad Kalusugan in Towerville has accomplished the following: the institution of a tuberculosis watch, improvements in the water system and supply, a deworming program, a system of ensuring that all children are immunized, a nutrition and feeding program, application and distribution of Philhealth Cards for families, dental services, free circumcision, health check-up for children, plus a community-wide health assessment program.

The third component is the Health Information Systems Development, which creates a profiling system for the efficient tracking of a patient's health, together with his activities and the kind of treatment he requires.

The words of Mr. Mateo summarize the reason for being of Gawad Kalusugan: "Hindi nagtatapos sa magandang bahay ang isang magandang buhay."

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Gawad Kalinga and Pfizer Foundation's Community Empowerment Health Program

Less of self, more for others, enough for all... this is the guiding principle that Gawad Kalinga lives by. And today, believing that health is a basic right, Gawad Kalinga has become a health advocate with GAWAD KALUSUGAN in partnership with Pfizer Philippines Foundation, Inc.

Gawad Kalusugan, a three-year program, aims to empower communities by enhancing their capacities to become committed and competent health champions. They are equipped with health services, and all their projects are designed to be sustainable and responsive to their own health care needs. Gawad Kalusugan is for and by the community members themselves.

After all, an empowered community is but the beginning. Everything starts with just one community. Tomorrow, another Gawad Kalinga community will follow...and eventually, a country of health champions will emerge.

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Problems identified 15 years ago …

From page A1

more productivity from both our education budget and our education establishment," the report said.

Recommendations

To remedy the situation, the commission recommended measures that are still echoed today by concerned Filipinos:

- Stress basic public education—elementary and high school—because that's all the formal schooling the masses of Filipinos get and set aside for this constitutional entitlement as many available resources and talented people as possible.
- Encourage alternative learning modes, especially for the illiterate.
- Make the vernacular and Filipino the medium of instruction for basic education.
- Enlarge and enrich technical/vocational education for young people whose aptitudes incline toward this direction.
- Restructure the Department of Education to ensure that program focus is clear, resources are allocated rationally, and plans are realistic and attainable.

Dismantling the DepEd

Angara then authored legislation seeking to dramatically alter the DepEd makeup to enable it to concentrate on improving basic education. Thus, the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) was formed to address the needs of colleges and universities.

To provide much-needed vocational skills, Angara introduced the bill that created the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

"Under our proposal in 1992 and implemented by law and policy, we have to redesign the educational establishment because pre-1992, the Department of Education was one huge bureaucracy," recalls Angara, who was reelected in the May elections.

"It was a monolith. It handled from Grade 1 to graduate school. So we established three pillars. We asked the DepEd to just concentrate on basic education—elementary and high school."

"It captures reality on the ground. The reality is that for every 10 Filipinos who enter elementary, only six will graduate, four will fall by the wayside. Out of the six, only four will graduate from high school and two will go to college," he says, recounting figures that remain true today.

He says university education then—as now—was well-cared for. With over 1,000 colleges, the two Filipinos who will enter the tertiary level should have no problems.

The CHEd was designed to be a developmental rather than a regulatory body and was granted a P1-billion endowment fund to carry out its objectives.

Despite the commission's findings and the prescriptions, the state of Philippine education remain dismal. Recommendations and initiatives then are now being reversed today—the plan to appoint an "education czar," the use of English as the medium of instruction, among many others.

Transitional leadership

What went wrong?

"Mainly, the leadership of the Department of Education has been a transitional, seasonal thing," Angara says over coffee at the swank Philamlife Tower overlooking the Makati financial district on a sultry, storm-tossed day.

"As common in any bureaucracy, every department head wants to build his own pyramid," says Angara, 72, a top-rate lawyer and former president of the University of the Philippines who has espoused the education cause in his 30 years in the Senate.

Emblematic of the situation is the fact that under the six-year administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo four secretaries and one interim officer have taken charge of the DepEd.

Each one of them was deeply committed and passionate in arresting the steady decline of the system since the martial law years when the security apparatus to prop the dictatorial regime of Ferdinand Marcos was the priority.

Angara says the crisis in the Philippines is not so much in the economy but in education.

"The economic crisis is only an offshoot of our lack of competitiveness in education, especially now that the world is globalizing. That means that even our curriculum must globalize because our manpower production is not just geared for domestic supply but for worldwide supply. That means if you want our people to be competitive with the Thais, the Malaysians, or Singaporeans, you've got to have top-rate standards in education," he says.

The improvements in the education sector, if any, have been "marginal," Angara says. "But in terms of standards and recruitment, retention and training of teachers, zero."

Decentralization

Florencio "Butch" Abad issued a paper on a "Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda," or Besra, barely over a month before he resigned in 2005 as education secretary, along with nine other Cabinet officials in the wake of the "Hello Garci" scandal.

Abad, 53, who served the Arroyo administration for 10 months, was then giving substance to ideas conceptualized by his predecessors—Raul Roco and Edilberto de Jesus. He had hoped Besra—outlined in a 12-page document—would institutionalize reforms in an office that seemed to be caught in a perennial game of musical chairs.

Besra initially secured a $200-million funding from the World Bank. But Abad says Congress balked at his plan to secure multiyear budgeting—up to six years—for Besra, unwilling to abdicate a legislative prerogative.

"For much of the time, that was our preoccupation, including the governance of the DepEd from one that is centralized, hierarchical, bureaucratic to a system where much of the authority both for determining what happens inside the classroom as well as for procurement is brought down to the level as much as possible of the division, at best in the classroom," Abad says.

In this manner, Abad says there will be someone who can be held accountable for performance or lack of it. He had proposed publishing the ranking of schools in performance tests in a way that would embarrass those under performing.

"We wanted to decentralize, strengthen the role of teachers in managing classrooms and principals in running schools," Abad says. This meant giving divisions—the lowest unit in the DepEd chain of command—authorization to procure equipment, hire teachers and involving local executives and parents in the process.

"The root of the problem is in basic education," Abad says.

He says he does not believe Director General Romulo Neri of the National Economic Development Authority will succeed in the limited time allotted to him at the CHEd. Ms Arroyo has given Neri six months to fix CHEd's targets so it could meet the employment demands of business.

Sen. Angara, however, says Neri is one of the nation's best planners. "He is pragmatic. He's got brains. He is not afraid to make decisions. But giving him six months to fix it, I think, is like condemning him to failure. It is just impossible," he says.

Nothing to show for money

"You've got to look at content," Angara says. "What are they teaching our children. Are they relevant to the times. Is it helping higher education that almost two-thirds of our university enrollment is in nursing, hotel and restaurant and in maritime courses? Is that healthy for the long term?"

Angara rues that a tremendous amount of money has been given the DepEd by international donors and business concerns but it has nothing to show for it in a critical field that is the only vehicle for Filipinos—who have no access to material wealth because of the failure of agrarian reform—in achieving social mobility.

"All this propaganda of private business that they are doing tremendous philanthropic work for education has not made a dent in the improvement of the standards," Angara says.

No one has done any assessment of the impact of the scarce resources donors and businessmen are putting into the DepEd, he says, calling it a "bottomless pit."

One problem is the DepEd's "inaccurate, sometimes even falsified, statistics" that do not help in planning. "Shortage" of everything in DepEd is a word Angara says he has heard since he was first elected to the Senate in 1987.

"I suspect the figures are all bloated, just like in the military. There are many encounters with the NPA (communist New People's Army) and the NPA number keeps rising every time it's budget season," Angara says.

Islands of excellence

While calling the education system an "ocean of mediocrity," Angara says there are "some islands of excellence."

The bright spots, he says, are the national science high schools in seven of the country's 15 regions whose students are doing well in competitive examinations and are being recruited by such prestigious US schools as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

If these schools are replicated in all provinces, they would serve as a magnet to attract talents and spread them all around, he says.

Angara is optimistic about a project he initiated last year with then Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.—the setting up of a joint commission on competitiveness that will focus on improving science and engineering disciplines.

"It will be a joint public-private effort, harnessing resources to provide massive scholarships, massive faculty recruitment and massive support for research and development," he says.

It is something that Angara hopes will catapult the nation into the forefront of the information revolution and provide it with the capacity for technical innovation.

In The Know

Philippine education: The big picture

- THE PHILIPPINES HAS A high adult literacy rate, meaning those who can read and write: male, 92.5 percent; female, 92.7 percent.
- Functional literacy rate—those who can follow simple instructions—is 84 percent, but the DepEd admits the figure is "overstated."
- In school year 2005-2006, 12,913,845 students were in elementary schools, including 931,383 in private schools, and 6,267,015 in high schools, including 1,287,985 in private schools.
- A recent Unesco report ranked the Philippines 74th in terms of the Education Development Index, falling below Mongolia, 61st; Vietnam, 65th; Indonesia, 58th, and China, 38th.
- Fifty-one percent of Filipinos have had only elementary education; only 14.3 percent of rural poor Filipinos graduate from high school or have higher educational attainment.
- Results of the nationally administered National Elementary Achievement Test and National Secondary Achievement Test showed that students gave correct answers to less than 50 percent of the questions.
- The Philippines performed poorly in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study in 2003, ranking 41st in a field of 45 in Science and 42nd in Math.

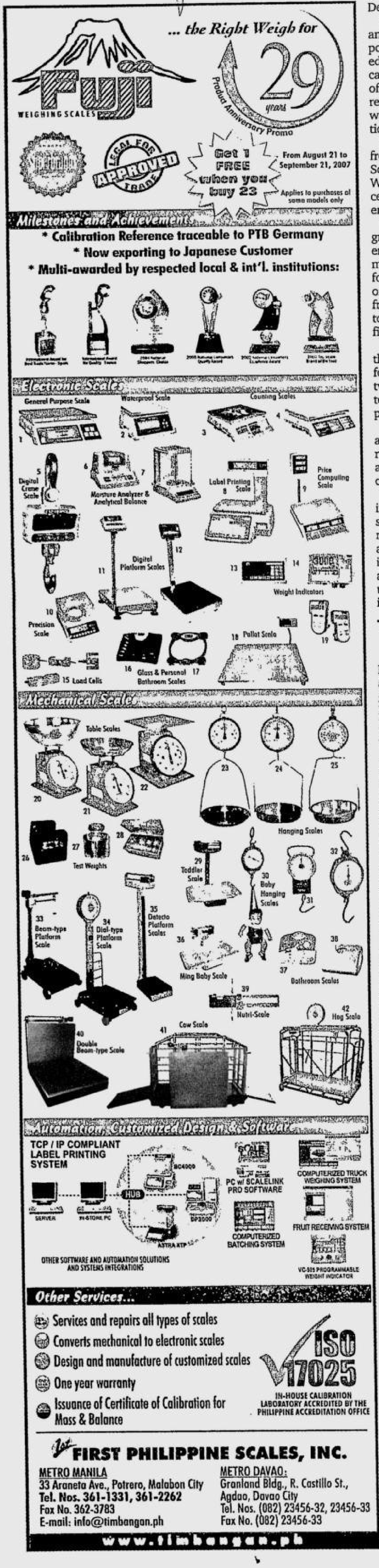
State of teachers

- In 2006, schools lacked 10,517 teachers, assuming a 1:45 teacher-student ratio.
- Almost two-thirds or 62 percent of public schools are without principals to provide instructional leadership.
- More than 59 percent of non-Science and non-Math majors are teaching Science and Math at high school level. In Physics, 73 percent of teachers are not majors in the subject.
- Mean performance scores in Licensure Examination for Teachers are below 50 percent.
- Teachers work an average of 1,176 hours per year in classes of over 50 students, according to the International Labor Organization and Unesco.
- The Alliance of Concerned Teachers estimates that a teacher at entry level receives a gross monthly salary of P9,939. The labor department says a family of six needs P17,820 a month to survive.

Schools shortage

- At current prices, P16 billion is needed to deal with a shortage of 41,197 classrooms at P400,000 per classroom in 2007.
- A Unesco study says the Philippines has a public elementary school average class size of 43.9 students compared to Malaysia's 31.7, Thailand's 22.9, Japan's 28.6 and India's 40. In the high school level, the Philippines has an even higher average with 56.1 students, while Malaysia has 34, Thailand 41.5, Japan 33.9 and India 39.

Source: Senate, DepEd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Poll shows most schools received …

From page A1

Social Studies textbooks in Filipino for Grades 1 to 5 issued this year at the start of DepEd's update every five years had been delivered even before the opening of the new school year—except in very few places, according to the survey.

However, copies of an Errata Guide shipped out by the DepEd correcting errors in the textbooks have only begun to be distributed two months after classes opened in June.

Lucena South II Elementary School has yet to get the textbooks, according to its principal, Azucena Adormeo. "We're still using the old Sibika books," Adormeo said.

In Baguio City, public elementary school teachers said they had yet to see a copy of the Sibika textbooks.

Ellen Donato, city schools district superintendent, said the books were often shipped directly to the schools but no communication had reached her that these had been delivered.

In Los Baños, Laguna, Lopez Elementary School has yet to receive Sibika books and the promised corrections, said its principal, Lourdes Matusalem.

In Sorsogon City, Evelyn Jano, a Grade 5 teacher at the Sorsogon Pilot Elementary School, said teachers were told to report on weekends to correct textbooks received based on the 22-page Errata Guide.

"It was the fruit of corruption," said one teacher of the error-filled textbooks. She said she did not wish to be named for obvious reasons.

The new textbooks have not showed up yet at Gogon Elementary School in Legaspi City, said Teresita Aynera, the principal.

She appealed to the DepEd to speed up the delivery of the textbooks for the school with 905 students, saying most teaching materials had been destroyed by a series of typhoons that hit the area last year. She said groups of 10 students each were now sharing one textbook.

At Bagtang Elementary School in Daraga, Albay, property custodian Meriam Reonal said textbooks for Grades 2, 4 and 5 had been received but those for Grades 1 and 3 were still undelivered for some strange reasons.

"There were also no new textbooks distributed for other subjects in all levels, not even to replace the damaged ones last year," she said.

Correspondents of the INQUIRER Northern Luzon Bureau and Central Luzon Desk said textbook deliveries had been made to schools contacted, but teachers were complaining about the tedious work of correcting errors.

"It looked like the books did not pass through screening or editing," said Reynaldo Barrazo, principal of the West Central I Elementary School in Dagupan City. "We cannot reproduce (correction) pamphlets for all our students so we asked the teachers to inform their students about the corrections," he said.

Wivina Gonzales, education supervisor in Batanes, said the textbooks had been received but the manuals for corrections had yet to be delivered to the province two months after the opening of classes.

No major problems were reported in the Visayas and Mindanao. *Reports from Bobby Labalan, Delfin Mallari Jr., Ephraim Aguilar and Jaymee Gamil, Nimfa Catherine Calleja, Marlon Alexander Luistro and Madonna Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Tonette Orejas, Carmela Reyes, Russel Arador and Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuentes, Juliet Cataluna, Villamor Visaya Jr. and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Joey A. Gabieta, Jani Arnaiz, Kit Bagaipo, Carla P. Gomez, Nestor P. Burgos and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas; Richel Umel, Ferdinand Zuasola, Orlando Dinoy and Grace Albasin, Inquirer Mindanao*

SC to judge: Watch your language

DESCRIBING A prosecutor as a "cheap factory of bogus charges" is evidently a no-no in judicial circles.

The Supreme Court has reprimanded a Caloocan City Regional Trial Court judge for using disrespectful language in her pleadings, in a complaint brought against her by Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco.

"We reprimand respondent Adoracion G. Angeles... for her use of intemperate language in her pleadings. We dismiss all the other charges against respondent," the high court said in its Aug. 15 decision.

Aside from accusing Angeles of using language unfit for a judge, Velasco also charged her with besmirching a justice's reputation; committing child abuse; misquoting the prosecutor and accusing him of falsifying a document; visiting the secretary of justice while her case was pending in his department claiming the prosecutor had suppressed evidence; falsifying a document and using it as evidence; causing her grandniece to execute a false affidavit, among other charges.

The charges stemmed from Velasco's recommendation that Angeles be indicted for child abuse committed against her grandniece, and Angeles' subsequent petition for review in which she questioned the dismissal of the administrative complaint she had filed against Velasco.

The high court found Angeles liable only for using intemperate language.

It said Angeles should have chosen her words carefully when she questioned how Velasco came to have a copy of a letter written by retired Justice Josue Bellosillo.

In the letter, Bellosillo had countered Angeles' allegation he had intervened in a custody battle between Angeles' grandniece and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The judge was also quoted as having said, among other things, that "it is very disgusting that [Velasco] is acting like a crybaby begging for attention" and "the instant complaint can be compared to the last grunting noises of a dying rat that became trapped in its own gullibility."

Leila B. Salaverria

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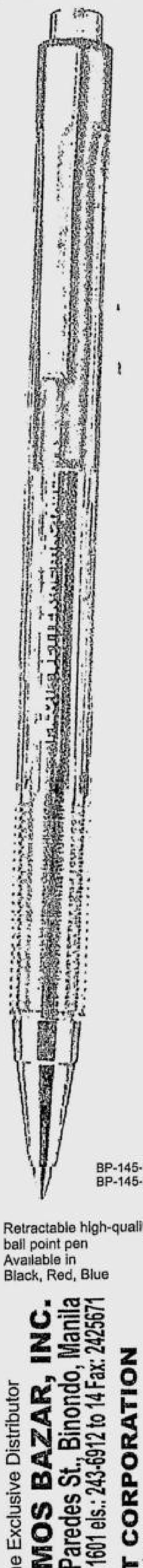

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3:30 - 4:30pm Local World-Class "Calibration - Here in the Philippines" by: Microprecision Calibration Philippines
Seminar Room 2
10:00 - 11:00am MUSOL METAL - Working Fluids - by: Ramchem International Inc.
12:30 - 1:30pm Energy Conservation for Compressor Air / Exhausted Air Recycling System - by: New Achievers Marketing
3:30 - 4:30pm Increase in Revenue. Reduction in cost using Objet Rapid Prototyping - by: BigPix Graphics (Objet Division)
August 24, 2007
2:00 - 4:30pm Optimizing Tool Life Through Correct Heat Treatment by: ASSAB
3:30 - 4:30pm Material Selection - by: Penta Technological Products Inc.
10:00 - 11:00am Energy Conservation of Compressor Air / Exhausted Air Recycling System - by: New Achievers Marketing
2:00 - 3:00pm Philips Energy Savings - by Transpo Sales
August 25, 2007
2:00 - 3:00pm CAD Presentation - by: Teknologix, Inc.
10:00 - 11:00am Energy Conservation of Compressor Air / Exhausted Air Recycling System - by: New Achievers Marketing
2:00 - 3:00pm Introducing the New Technology of Pneumatic Tools from Sumitomo Japan - by Back Je Philippines
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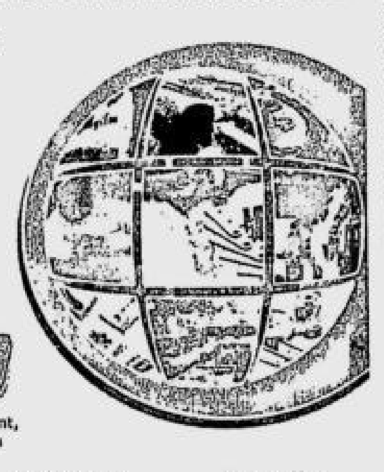

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OPINION

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Wasted lives

There never was a good war nor a bad peace.
—Benjamin Franklin

EDITORIAL

IF THE GOVERNMENT IS THINKING OF THE GREATer good of Mindanao and the country, it had better call off the all-out offensive that has been launched by its hawkish generals in Sulu and Basilan. If it has to go after the Abu Sayyaf bandits that killed 14 Marines and beheaded 10 of them, it should conduct small, commando-type operations instead of set battles. Decades of encounters with Moro separatists and bandits have shown that conventional warfare does not work well in Mindanao.

Church and political leaders, civic and women's groups have lamented the waste of lives in Mindanao. The latest to die on the government side were 10 Marines and five junior officers who, reports said, were mowed down "like sitting ducks" by the Abu Sayyaf after they ignored their guides' advice on what trail to take.

What is strange is that, as disclosed by an Army officer on condition of anonymity, the encounter was "considered part of their training in close-quarters combat" and "was just a test mission." What? Are the generals playing with the lives of soldiers, sending them on "test missions" to find out which tactic will work against the Abu Sayyaf? If this is true, this is the height of callousness and insensitivity on the part of these desk-bound generals.

Many lives have been wasted in the all-out offensive against the Abu Sayyaf. And most of the victims have been soldiers in the flower of their youth. Their deaths brings to mind what US President Herbert Hoover said about war: "Older men declare war. But it is the youth that must fight and die. And it is the youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow, and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war."

Actually, no one wins in a war; everyone is a loser. The casualties lose their lives or some of their limbs. Wives become widows; children are left orphans. Their fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters all grieve for them. The world of the soldiers' families is turned upside down.

An all-out war is bad not only for the families of the soldiers, but also for the regional and national economy. Senators last week said that an all-out war could cost the government P1 billion a month. Think of what P1 billion could finance to improve the lives of the people in Sulu and Basilan, two of the most underdeveloped places in the South. One billion pesos could pay for more low-cost houses, schools, hospitals, roads, bridges and livelihood programs.

Joseph Gloria of the Social Watch Philippines-Mindanao last week said that the all-out offensive in Sulu and Basilan is further setting back the eradication of poverty and other Millennium Development Goals in Region 12. He added that in a conflict, the most affected are the children because when wars erupt, people take refuge in the nearest schools and deprive the children of places for their education.

Already, 15,000 people have been "affected" or "displaced" by the hostilities in Sulu and Mindanao. The government officials' terms—"affected" and "displaced"—do not fully convey the depth of suffering and fear of uncertainty that the people affected by the war are feeling. Truly, as writer Arthur Koestler once said, wars consist of only 10 percent action and 90 percent passive suffering. And it is mostly the women and the children, aside from those who die and are maimed at the front, who greatly suffer.

As of last week about 9,000 soldiers had been committed to the all-out offensive in Sulu and Basilan. Nine thousand soldiers going after what—150 or at most 200—Abu Sayyaf bandits reinforced by some rogue guerrillas belonging to the Moro National Liberation Front. The imbalance of forces is very overwhelming in favor of the government, and yet up to now the encounters have resulted only in the massacre of young officers and soldiers. Clearly, the situation shows again that conventional warfare, set battles will not turn the tide in Mindanao.

It is not too late to de-escalate the hostilities. If the Marines have to avenge their slain and beheaded comrades, so be it. But limit their activities to surgical operations that will not affect entire islands. Macho warriors cannot forget the Old Testament maxim of "a tooth for a tooth" and "an eye for an eye." And it is always easy for generals who stay in the comfort of their airconditioned war rooms to wage war and play with the lives of their men. But the morally courageous stand is to call for the reduction of hostilities and to work for peace.

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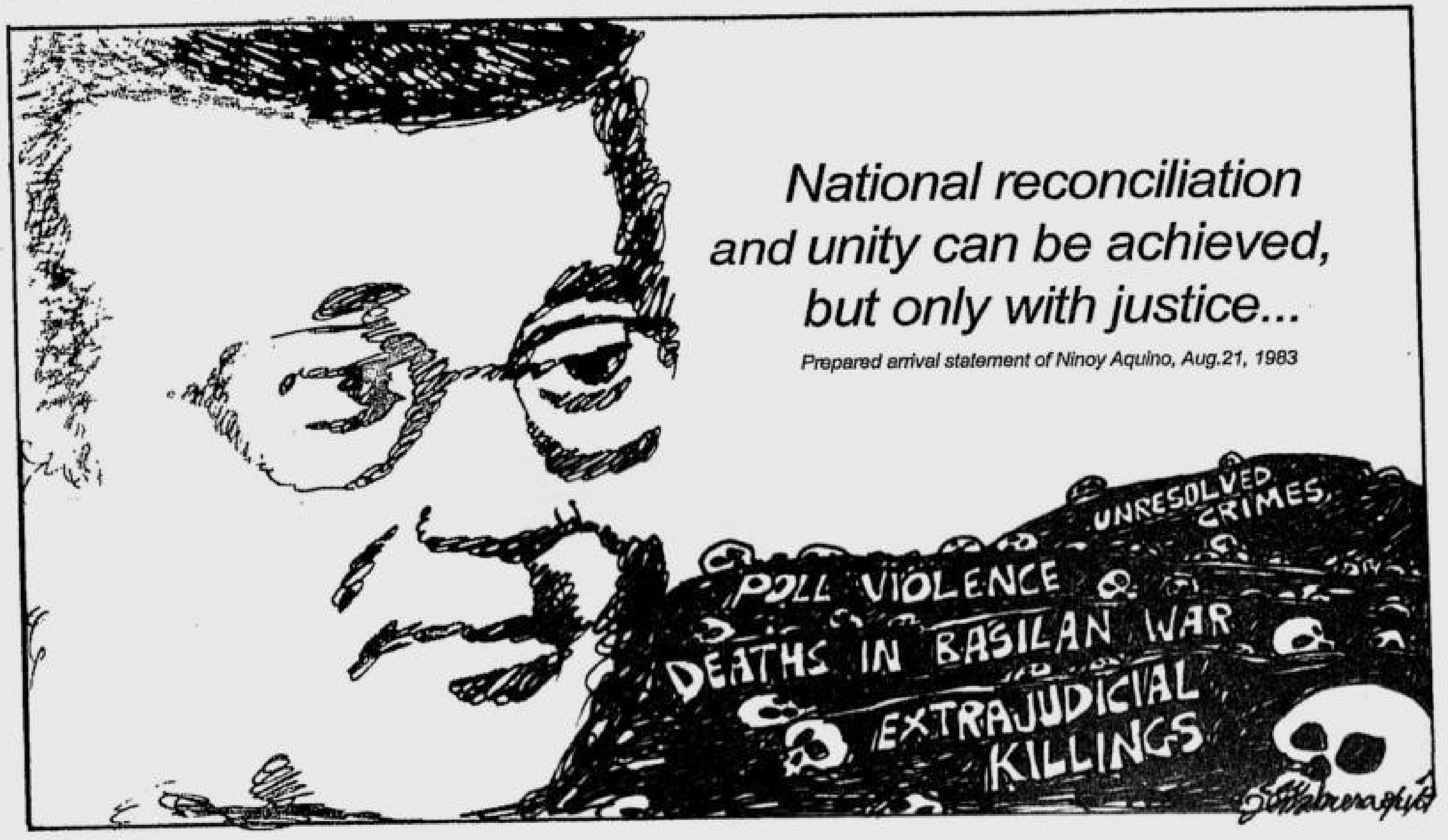

National reconciliation and unity can be achieved, but only with justice...

Prepared arrival statement of Ninoy Aquino, Aug.21, 1983

Historical irony

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT I NEVER GOT TO talk to the man," my son Francis gripes when former Sen. Benigno Aquino's death is remembered, as we do today.

Francis was a grade-school kid when our family bumped into Ninoy at San Francisco's international airport. We were flying to Bangkok, and Aquino was booked on a Boston flight. The years have blurred most of our chat that day. But we did laugh over my securing a "carrier pigeon" to sneak his article, smuggled from a Fort Bonifacio prison cell under martial law censors' noses. A sympathetic Air India manager brought it to editor Theh Chongkadikhij at the Bangkok Post.

In February 1973, the Post published "The Aquino Papers," a three-part series which challenged martial law. "I will not accept President Marcos' offer of an amnesty because I do not believe I've committed any crime," Aquino wrote. "He violated our Constitution and broke our laws."

Information Minister Francisco Tatad cabled a furious 8,000 word reply. Reprisals followed. Aquino and his cell mate, former Sen. Jose Diokno, were hustled into solitary confinement in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija—and half-starved to death.

Prison guards turned Corazon Aquino and family away for 43 days. Carmen Diokno and her children received similar brushoffs. "When Cory asked Deputy Defense Minister Carmelo Barbero why, she learned it was 'punishment' for the Post series," Miriam Grace Go reported.

The airport boarding call cut our talk short.

"Why didn't you introduce me?" Francis groused as Ninoy left. "He's the next Philippine president."

That was not to be. While military agents "guarded" Aquino as he descended the service gangway from his China Airlines plane, a single bullet tore into his jaw.

A reporter from The Nation in Bangkok phoned for a reaction. Given United Nations restraints, all I could mumble was: "Marcos claims he heads a 'command society.' He has all the powers; so he has all the responsibility."

As a numb afterthought, I added: "Manila will be renamed Aquino International Airport."

The censored press suppressed Aquino's arrival address aborted by that murder. Manuel L. Quezon III may someday publish a second edition of his book, "20 Speeches That Moved A Nation," and perhaps he'll see fit to include this speech that never was.

"I have returned of my own free will to join the ranks of those struggling to recover our rights and freedoms through non-violence," Aquino planned to say. "I seek no confrontation."

He flayed the supine Supreme Court justices' abdication of the cherished right of habeas corpus (today a centerpiece in the search for "disappeared" activist Jonas Burgos and similar victims). He would have appreciated the irony in Chief Justice Reynato Puno's plan to wield the "writ of Amparo" in order to leash some military officers who haven't learned history's lessons.

Aquino thought a direct appeal to the ill, isolated Marcos could usher in peaceful change. He saw the danger. "If they kill me, they're out in two years," he predicted.

That forecast fell short of the People Power Revolt by two years. Was this stupidity? Or principled stubbornness?

The Duke of Norfolk badgered the imprisoned Thomas More to heed Henry VIII's demand for consent to his divorce. "Think Master More," the Duke urged. *"Indignatio principis mors est* (The prince's anger is death)."

More replied: "Is that all, my Lord? Then, there's no difference between your Grace and me—but I shall die today, and you tomorrow."

Under the dictatorship's thumb, Military Commission No. 2 found Aquino "guilty" of subversion. They sentenced him to "death by musketry."

Censorship ensured that few heard what Aquino said after the sentencing. But Aquino, we're told, asked the tribunal if they could recall the military judges who sentenced Andres Bonifacio. They could not. Aquino ticked off names of Gen. Mariano Noriel, Col. Agapito Banzon and others. "Today, few remember the names of those judges. But we meet in a fort that is named in honor of the very man they sentenced to death."

This was historical irony. Bonifacio's trial has been documented by retired Justice Abraham Sarmiento and others. And deadline-pressed laymen, like us, can only hope that scholars of Ambeth Ocampo's competence will one day compare transcripts of these two mistrials.

Ninoy's funeral brought two million mourners into the streets. Thousands tuned in to Radio Veritas, the only station that dared report the rites. "No umbrellas," people chanted as rain fell. "Only Imelda uses an umbrella!" That was a jeer at cronies who trotted with parasol behind the First Lady.

When the coffin passed Rizal Park, crowds forcibly lowered the giant Philippine flag to half-staff. Did that presage People Power four years later? No one could say. All that the people clung to was the belief that the blood of martyrs is the seed of heroes.

Now a 39-year-old Northwest Airlines pilot, Francis never met Ninoy. But he sees the nation mark his death yearly. And Ninoy's features grace our currency and stamps. Schools and streets are named after him. So is the Manila International Airport. The Aquinos never demanded a Libingan ng mga Bayani plot. The Marcoses have wheedled, unsuccessfully so far, for such an interment.

Sorry old questions, however, continue to fester: Who were the mastermind(s)? Why have they escaped accounting? And who remembers the judges of Military Commission No. 2? Do people give a damn?

Indeed, the "struggle of man against power," as Czech novelist Milan Kundera once said, "is the struggle of memory against forgetting."

* * *

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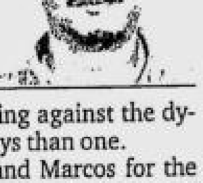
Cautionary tale

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF TWO EVENTS occurring on the same date, one plunging a country into the abyss and the other helping it climb out of it? Whatever those odds are, it has happened to us. I've always said we were a magic realist country more than any Latin American one and that all you had to do was write accurately about life (or death) in these parts to have an unbelievably luminous or luminously unbelievable work of fiction.

Those two events, of course, are the Plaza Miranda bombing and the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, the first bursting on us 36 years ago today and the second 24 years ago today. For some reason the 21st of August and not the Ides of March is the Furies' favorite date to wreak their, well, fury on us.

The first is now far less remembered than the second, though probably only by a hair—Ninoy's murder itself has receded in the Filipino's memory, which isn't long to begin with, jogged into vague recollection only by Aug. 21 being a holiday. But it is the one especially worth remembering given our circumstances today, which are uncannily like those of yesterday.

The Plaza Miranda bombing took place in 1971. It was the *miting de avance* of the Liberal Party, preparatory to the senatorial elections of November. Two grenades were lobbed on to the stage where the entire Liberal Party slate was, sans Ninoy who had given notice he would be coming late—yet another monumental, if tragic, irony, for he would be very much present and on time in the second event. The blast killed two spectators in front of the stage and wounded several others. Among those on the stage, Jovito Salonga caught the blast flush in the face and body. The others were wounded in various degrees.

Nobody expected Salonga to live, and it is yet another irony that with more than 100 shrapnel in his body, a couple of them lodging just a hair's breadth away from a major vein, he has outlived Ramon Mitra who was the least hurt of the candidates. Indeed, that he has outlived pretty much most of his contemporaries. Believe in fate, believe in God, believe in miracles, but he's still there, raging against the dying of the light—in more ways than one.

Everyone blamed Ferdinand Marcos for the atrocity. By then everyone suspected him of wanting to hold on to power—it was his second term, which he won with more than the usual amount of guns, goons and gold, and he was barred by law from having a third one. Everyone believed as well he was ruthless enough to do it. The outrage was swift and huge, like a flash flood. Came the November elections, Marcos' protégés in the Nacionalista Party were swept away by their Liberal rivals like garbage that had stuck around after the flood.

I myself think that was when martial law became firmly entrenched in Marcos' mind as the only way to keep power. Before that he had toyed with various possibilities, notably with a shift to a parliamentary system via the Constitutional Convention that would have allowed him to run as prime minister. The following year, 1972, an elderly and decent man (the two do not always go together as look at the ancient and obscene men and women we are cursed with today) exposed Marcos' attempts to bribe him and other members of the Constitutional Convention to favor the parliamentary route. It provoked a scandal of epic proportions, but by that time Marcos was probably only using the parliamentary shift as a smokescreen for his real plans.

I think it was the outcome of the November 1971 elections that clinched the deal in his mind. It showed him, if he did not know it already, how unpopular he (and Imelda) had become, and how elections, whether for president or prime minister, were no longer winnable. Ironically, the country's happiest moment, which was seeing Marcos' legions seemingly in disarray, would be the start of its bitterest, when it would be plunged into darkness that would last for 14 years.

The question is, what made it possible for Marcos to rule forever—or at least until the other event that took place on Aug. 21 sparked the beginning of the end for him—notwithstanding that everyone was wary of it?

There are many answers, but two in particular have something important to say to us today.

The first is that for all their shrill warnings about Marcos contemplating ruling with an iron-fist, the people opposing him, including the Left, never really seriously believed their press. Even if Marcos wanted to, they figured, he couldn't. Elections had been around for as long as people could remember and they would be around long after people could remember. Hell hath no fury than the Filipino's favorite pastime scorned, or taken away from him. Unlike today, the opposition then had only one man they figured they would be fielding against any Marcos protégé, including Imelda, and who would be the next president of the country: Ninoy. It was destiny, not even Marcos could change it. He wouldn't dare.

The second reason is that the people opposing Marcos figured that if he was going to mount a dictatorship, he would do only shortly before the November 1973 elections, which was when his second term effectively ended. Enough time to stop him. Marcos acted well before then, catching everyone by surprise. After an unrelenting barrage of war rhetoric—war against terror, war against the oligarchy, war against a Left-Right conspiracy—and with bombings in the capital and campaigns against the insurgents in the North and the secessionists in the South to go with it, he made his move. One year and one month after the bombing of Plaza Miranda, a bigger explosion rocked the nation, felling and wounding millions in its wake. It was called martial law.

Those who do not heed cautionary tales are doomed to live them again and again.

Observing anniversary of 'Kris' father'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN A TALK YESTERDAY BEFORE A GROUP OF ladies, a priest recounted hearing a radio commentator explaining the significance of yesterday's holiday. He said it was the 24th death anniversary "of the father of Kris Aquino." The priest found the remark funny, but on second thought, he realized it was a smart way to connect especially to the young people to whom Ninoy Aquino was only the face in the P500 bill. The Edsa People Power Commission set up by former President Joseph Estrada and the Spirit of Edsa Foundation established by civic leader Chris Carrion do their best every year to ensure that Filipinos do not forget Ninoy's martyrdom, but the commentator is right: they have to find a connect to the youth.

* * *

My radio partner Cecile Alvarez and mining czar Heherson Alvarez are among those who religiously seek to enkindle Ninoy's spirit every Aug. 21. Among the guests Cecile had last Sunday on her "Sining Gising" program over NBN 4 was Japanese journalist Kiyoshi Wakamiya, who recounted the events in Boston and Asia before Ninoy's courageous date with destiny. Wakamiya was with him and his brother-in-law, American journalist Ken Kashiwahara (husband of Lupita Kashiwahara) in the plane from the US, and he recalled that Ninoy was alternately funny and laughing as well as nervous (film clips showed these moods). But later he turned quiet and prayerful, clutching at a rosary, intuitively sensing that something dreadful would happen to him. Yet, as they neared Manila, recalled Wakamiya, Ninoy found time to be solicitous about his companions. He opined that Marcos' henchmen wouldn't touch Kashiwahara as he was bureau chief of a giant US TV network, but he worried about Wakamiya and advised him to run to the Japanese Embassy should he get into trouble.

* * *

Last Thursday, I wrote about a recent radio interview Cecile and I had with Assistant Foreign Secretary for Asean Affairs Luis Cruz on the preparations that went into the 40th anniversary celebration of Asean in Manila. What the public didn't know was that behind all the glitter and photo ops was tremendous hard work to ensure that all the myriad events went without any glitch. The five-day anniversary celebration involved a series of events held back to back or quickly succeeding one another, such as the Asean Ministerial Meeting, the Asean post-ministerial conference with six dialogue partners, the 14th Asean Regional Forum participated in by 27 foreign ministers, the Asean plus 3 and the East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Meeting. In between all these activities were various courtesy calls by the 27 foreign ministers on President Macapagal-Arroyo. Two weeks later, the Asean ministers on environment and small- and medium-scale cultural enterprises also met here.

* * *

Few know that from August 2006 to August 2007, about 106 meetings were hosted by the Philippines to plan and prepare for all these big events. For the Manila meetings alone, there were a total of 14 ministerial and 10 preparatory meetings. The lead agency was the Department of Foreign Affairs headed by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, where a whole cadre of personnel led by Undersecretary Linda Basilio and Assistant Secretary Luis Cruz was mobilized. Ambassador Rosario Manalo headed the high-level task force that drew up the draft Asean Charter. In our radio interview, Cruz said what complicated the preparations was the fact that RP had to step in as chair of Asean a full year in advance in August of 2006, as Burma (Myanmar) was not ready due to some internal developments. But despite the short time, he said the success of the Cebu summit and the 40th Asean anniversary in Manila showed that the government's collaborating agencies were on top of the situation, a tribute to hard work and cooperation all around. If only we could have this teamwork in every facet of our national life.

It's said that Singapore, which will host the Asean Leaders' Summit this November, acknowledges that so much was accomplished under RP's chairmanship and it feels quite challenged. The next summit's big job is to draw up the terms of reference for the Charter's rights provision—issues like, the primacy of individual human rights over those of community and family, etc. If the Charter would be approved—a big IF—Asean would beat the European Union to the draw, for until now the EU has no approved charter after France and the Netherlands thumbed down the draft a few years ago.

* * *

Outsiders often think nations go from summit to summit without any thread of continuity. Cruz debunked this notion, stressing the mode of building stone upon stone on the Asean edifice. He pointed out that what was taken up in Cebu and Manila hewed closely to the six-year Vientiane Action Program (VAP). He noted that the drafting of the Asean Charter, which includes the promotion of human rights, stems from one of the VAP's four pillars, political security. Obviously the Philippines made sure that the human rights provision was inserted during its chairmanship, perhaps to assuage international condemnation of extrajudicial killings here. Cruz also noted that in Cebu, the Asean heads of state signed the Cebu Declaration for the Protection of Migrant Workers, while in Manila the foreign ministers approved the committee that will implement it. He also pointed out that the only agenda pushed by GMA for the East Asian Summit in Cebu was energy security and the summit participants came ready with what they wanted to offer. Japan, for instance, offered $2 billion in official development assistance to Asean.

Coming to terms

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"A LOVE STORY" IS CUT FROM THE SAME cloth as the love triangles in the movies of Marlene Dauden, Lolita Rodriguez and Eddie Rodriguez. Mature romance, beset by emotional storms, and resolved mainly by careful thought, albeit with much tear-stained introspection and confrontations.

A decade or so later, the "adult" movies would evolve into glossier, sleeker versions, the love triangles fleshed out with wittier, more ironic scripts and harder-edged characters. In the hands of directors like Ishmael Bernal, Eddie Garcia, Danny Zialcita, Laurice Guillen, Marilou Diaz Abaya (I think even Lino Brocka shot one or such films), the adult love triangle broke free from its treacly origins, managing to stay relevant at a time when Filipinos were breaking free from social conventions and moral restraints.

Particularly memorable were the casts: Vilma Santos and Christopher de Leon, the favorites of producers from whom they were the "natural" casting choices for such films, and any number of their contemporaries and rising young stars: Lorna Tolentino, Amy Austria, Dina Bonnevie, and, yes, Maricel Soriano, and on the leading man side: Tonton Gutierrez, Gabby Concepcion, Mat Ranillo III, Richard Gomez and Eric Quizon.

Though trite and at times formulaic, there was still a great deal of satisfaction to be had from these "adult" films, which were adult not in their sexual content, though they did get racier with time, but in their treatment of relationship issues, in their exploration of character and circumstance. In good hands, the movies left moviegoers with a solid, satisfying sense of coming full circle, of having wrangled along with the characters with moral dilemmas and painful choices.

* * *

"A LOVE Story" comes from that same lineage, and at a time when most commercial releases cater to the "*bagets*" crowd, and their obsession with "*barkada*" flicks, "*kilig*" romances and silly flings, the movie comes as a refreshing break.

Aga Muhlach, who still retains a boyish charm that shines through his middle-age spread, portrays an architect and developer who as expected finds himself torn between two women: a young stewardess (Angelica Panganiban) with whom he embarks on a wild, passionate fling while in Macau; and an obstetrician/gynecologist (Maricel Soriano), who is still hurting from her husband's abandonment.

It seems a simple enough story, but the way it is told, circuitously with audiences kept guessing well into the movie who between the two women is the wife and who the mistress, keeps our attention on the unraveling plot. There is also the "inner" story of Aga's troubled architect: his yearning for his father's and family's respect and admiration, and his fear of abandonment.

The last stems from the departure in his childhood of his mother, which leaves his father devastated, and leaves Aga in sole charge of his father's emotional care. But many years later, his "father's wife" returns and, much against Aga's wishes, is received back with open arms. Even more biting is that when his mother dies and his father develops Alzheimer's, it is the mother's memory that is seared in his father's brain, while Aga, alone of all his siblings, is the one his father forgets.

* * *

DANTE Rivero, as Aga's father, steals most of the scenes he's in. Granted, his lines, the befuddled responses of a confused mind unaware of everything happening around him, are meant to break the emotional tension and provide comic relief. But there is no gainsaying the sense of comic timing and the detachment he achieves while saying his lines while we survey the huge impact they have on the other characters.

Angelica Panganiban is very, very good and very, very bold in her scenes in Macau, where she portrays a carefree, passionate young woman in the throes of passion and love. She and Aga even look good together, her youth contrasting powerfully with Aga's own mature good looks. But still, it strikes me often in the movie that she is still too young for the role. Maybe it's the residual "Munting Prinsesa" images I have to erase, or the traces of baby fat still visible through her provocative wardrobe. The scriptural device of having Anglica play her "question game" with Aga at most crucial moments also tires after one too many times.

* * *

THE MAJOR leads, though, are undoubtedly Maricel and Aga. Too bad they don't seem to enjoy a natural, visual chemistry, despite their many love and bed scenes. I understand this is their first cinematic pairing, and I wonder if producers had sensed this mismatch before.

Still, they do their level best as mature lovers, though I wonder if Aga's vaunted weight loss came only when his scenes with Angelica were nearing. With Maricel, he still comes off as rather chunky, though that doesn't diminish his onscreen appeal at all.

Maricel, as expected, is competent and able to flesh out her lonely doctor with enough subtlety and flashes of humor and wit to raise her from cardboard characterization. I also love the interaction between her and her best friend, a gay male pediatrician (R.S. Francisco). In fact, in this movie the best friend characters (as well as the siblings) are so ably drawn, they stand out perhaps more than they should!

Still, in the end, this is Aga's movie. He is lucky scriptwriter Vanessa Valdez gives him the best lines, though I thought the exchange near the end with his father was rather forced. Aga embodies a man coming to terms with his own needs and shortcomings, his own weaknesses and strengths. I love that director Maryo J. De los Reyes gave him free rein in that "drunken" scene, and the explosion of anger and resentment is an awesome sight.

Congratulations to everyone for a most satisfying movie watching experience!

Is Ninoy, today, even relevant?

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

CABINET SECRETARY RICARDO SALUDO'S ESsay on the making of this year's State of the Nation Address, which appeared on these pages a week ago, is worth a closer look.

"Churning out 4,648 words with video footage and PowerPoint graphics took about two months, from the first meeting with the Cabinet on overall Sona themes to the final fine-tuning of the text and four rehearsals with the TV team," he wrote.

The striking thing about this year's Sona, however, for me at any rate, was how it almost immediately became irrelevant, when news about the drought and the looming water and power crises hogged the headlines within the same week.

I asked Saludo: Did the drought ever come up in the two months of preparation? He replied, by SMS: "Dry spell is addressed by irrigation and rural roads projects, so there was no need to give it special attention."

Reasonable enough, but also intriguing. If things were in hand, why did Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita even suggest emergency powers?

* * *

I have not seen Lorenzo Tañada III ("Erin" to his friends) in maybe 20 years, but I was glad when he finally made it to Congress three years ago. My memory of Aug. 21, 1983 and its immediate terrifying aftermath includes an image of him standing outside a room in Colayco Hall the day after the assassination, distraught, angry, gesturing wildly, and saying over and over again: We must draw a line. If Marcos steps across that line, we must fight back. We must draw a line.

* * *

Forty years ago, Ninoy Aquino was elected to the Senate, the lone Liberal survivor in a Nacionalista landslide. The revived rivalry of the two traditional parties in the run-up to the 2010 presidential election should mean Ninoy the consummate politician is relevant again (together with other leading Liberal lights like the late Gerardo Roxas and the durable Jovito Salonga), even if only to political strategists.

There really is much to be learned from Ninoy's political practice: from his famous three-phase Senate campaign, a study in political salesmanship; to his avid consultation and close collaboration with elders in both party and chamber (with the natural cunning of a favored son, Ninoy was able to win the absolute trust of men much older than he); to his canny use of the solidly researched privilege speech to project himself as the true leader of the opposition.

But if this alone were the source of his relevance, then he died—24 years ago today—in vain.

Ninoy's true relevance, to both the political class and the nation, is his death-by-installment: the seven years and seven months in prison that changed him irrevocably, the three years in exile and then the voluntary return to almost certain death. "In the loneliness of my solitary confinement in Laur, in the depths of my solitude and desolation, during those long hours of meditations, I found my inner peace."

"Unequivocally and so clearly," he also wrote in that famous letter, "Rizal said that we can only win freedom by deserving it and that to earn it we must improve the mind and enhance the dignity of the individual, 'love what is just, what is good, what is great, to the point of dying for it.'"

How many of our politicians today speak this language?

* * *

As fate would have it, Ninoy's son and namesake is now a senator of the Republic, too. Unlike other Senate first-timers, Benigno Aquino III ("Noynoy" to everyone) entered the Senate hall burdened with a sense of history. His first speech, on the first day of session, alluded to his father's own election 40 years ago.

But he has a darker take on his father's continuing relevance. "All I'm saying is," he told me the other day, "there's a real need to emulate what he's done." The need is there, he said, because the things his father and thousands fought against are back, "because they're happening again."

He lists them, trippingly on the tongue: the extrajudicial killings, the "curtailment" of press freedom, the "weakening" of democratic institutions, a culture of fear being spread by a government "which is really guided by the principle of survival."

We hope the son is equal to the father's task.

* * *

It was Rep. Roilo Golez's idea, but the 28 members of the opposition caucus in the House have welcomed the "shadow Cabinet" plan as though it were their own. According to Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, the criteria for "Cabinet members" consists of "expertise" in a related field, "interest in that department" and (not least) the "willingness to study."

The principle behind the idea will be applied to the budget, too. Rodriguez said "each [opposition] congressman will take three [Executive] departments [during] the budget process"—a system of adoption that will allow them, or so the minority hopes, to vet the budget more thoroughly.

* * *

It has been a year since the great Fr. Jose Blanco died.

Ernie Ordoñez's commentary, and Dan Mariano's eloquent column, moved me to write then, in my Newsstand blog: "Non-violence as a way of proceeding; the political responsibility of the religiously committed; the 'truth of the situation'—seeing [Fr. Blanco] up close and at work taught many of us, even those who [like me] never studied under him or worked directly under him, a slew of lessons, both as ideals (which I always fell short of) and as methods."

Dan quoted "Derps" on the miracle of Edsa: "The world is best reconstructed by valuing the people and human lives, by reaching out in joy and dialogue. That is Filipino people power. This will be our contribution to human progress and peace."

* * *

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On my Bumblebee

YOUNG BLOOD

Angeli Agatha Ko

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I QUIT MY JOB, AND I APOLOGIZE TO ANY OF MY friends or peers who will find about it through this article.

I have been working for one year as a management trainee in a top multinational company, and it was only last Friday that I was able to muster the courage to follow my heart and make the crazy and terrifying dive to the unknown.

Don't get me wrong. I worked for a terrific company, and to be selected as one of only two trainees among some 4,000 applicants for the position was a great honor. The shock with which my decision was received by my family and friends ("Whatttttttt? Are you crazy, Angeli?" was the mildest reaction I got) was predictable. In fact, it was my anticipation of such a response from them that made it even more difficult for me to decide to get out of the solid, stable corporate environment and venture into finding what I truly want to do in life.

I don't blame anyone for questioning my decision, especially after I disabuse them of the notion that I quit because I hated my job. We Filipinos usually think that the only time we leave our job is when we reach the point of harboring a great distaste for it, and only then do we say, "I can't take it anymore!" and then pen our two weeks' resignation notice.

In my case, it was exactly the opposite. I have nothing but appreciation and gratitude to my employer. For how many companies have management trainee programs that offer overseas training in Europe every six months, a vast network of international colleagues and an eight-month stint in Davao, on top of the opportunity to work overseas after completing the two-year training period? All that is nothing to sneeze at. No, the salary wasn't particularly spectacular and there were days when everything seemed to just go wrong, but I was never resentful, regretful or embarrassed of my work.

So why did I quit halfway through the program? Did I confirm anyone's suspicion that I am the most stupid and irrational 23-year-old girl alive, for turning my back on such a great opportunity? Possibly.

Just a few months into the job, I realized that my calling wasn't in this particular industry. I only had a vague interest in it, but it seemed silly to give up a "dream job" and risk being labeled a quitter. Countless debates raged in my head, arguments about whether to stay or to leave. It's easy to quit when the going gets tough, when you're being pounded by your customers, peers and boss about everything that's "urgent" and "needs to be done ASAP." But even when I was in Europe making new friends and learning from professors from the best business schools around the world, there was still that nagging feeling deep inside me. Finally, I came to the conclusion that being a management trainee in that company was indeed a dream job, but it just was not mine. And I decided that I would eventually have to grow up and not let myself be bothered about what other people think or say.

The longing to make a difference and pursue a career in education and entrepreneurship, two things which I have dabbled in and for which I am naturally enthusiastic, pushed me to just go for it. Chalk it up to an Atenean's desire for Magis, my parents being living examples of generosity and compassion, my fanciful childhood dreams of teaching, and the great support of family and close friends, and my idealism.

Corny as it may sound, I drew inspiration and strength from these blessings, and handed my letter of resignation to our HR manager. Placing that neatly folded piece of paper on his desk effectively sealed the deal wherein I traded a nice, safe bag of goodies for whatever was behind mystery door No. 1.

It wasn't easy, and I don't think it will ever be. I know that there will be times when I will be questioning and perhaps even regretting my decision, and I don't think I can fully convince myself that I made the right choice. But we only live once, and we owe it to ourselves to try and discover what we were born to do and have passion for.

There's this scene in "Transformers" where Sam Witwicky asks his heroine if she would rather regret taking a ride with him in the mysterious, grimy, yellow car 30 years from now instead of chickening out, and I don't want to look back and regret not getting on my Bumblebee.

I don't know what the future holds for me, but I want to change the world and seek self-actualization and happiness. I want to find out what I was born to do and do it happily. It may be more difficult than Harry Potter hunting down Horcruxes, and I still harbor fears and doubts, but I'm hopeful.

Wish me luck.

Angeli Agatha Ko, 23, is a graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

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THEY SAID

Teaching

"My only dream is to see my people, especially those labeled illiterate, learn something so that they won't be taken advantage of."

—Dakag Hasim Hammidi, a Tausug vendor who teaches elder Sulu residents at night

Double standard

"Nobody is saying there are human rights violations when the lives of our men in uniform are snuffed out like that to the point of being beheaded, and yet people point an accusing finger at our members of security forces (for alleged killings of activists)."

—Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, after the killing of 14 Marines in Basilan by Moro gunmen

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'Bizarro' a better name for RP

MOST OF THIS COUNTRY'S SEnior citizens, like me, who are not in government must find it increasingly difficult coming to terms with present-day concepts and mores.

When I open the newspapers, I feel giddy. Not because of hypertension—I've since conquered the malady by taking my daily dose of maintenance medicine (bought, of course, at atrocious prices because of the lack of quorum in Congress); it's because of what I read.

For instance, I was one of the millions who voted for an opposition-controlled Senate. I'm now confused why nine administration senators have become the majority in a Senate of 23.

I read about the State of the Nation Address, but it didn't describe the nation's present state; it told of some utopian dream yet to happen in the future. (Heaven forbid that the one who delivered it is thinking of personally overseeing, up to 2020, the transformation of her fantasy into reality.)

A judge decides that a convict and an indicted suspect are the same banana and that the justice department represents all 85 million Filipinos as against a mere 11 million who voted for a senator. Being a non-lawyer, I can only take issue with the judge's arithmetic. He should have said 84,999,999 Filipinos—I refuse to be counted among the 85 million. Also, he should have deducted the 11 million.

Glowing accounts of a growing economy and pre-payments for external national debts are being trumpeted. But in the same breath, we hear of tax collection shortfalls and of a budget deficit way off the target.

The contradictions are making my head spin no end.

Oldtimers like me look back with nostalgia to the distant past when things were much simpler, when black was black and white was white: when a presidential candidate who honestly told the voters that Filipino guerrillas should not expect backpay from the US government, as it was not forthcoming, lost the election. (Then as now, being truthful leads to unwanted fate; no wonder politicians lie through their teeth.)

When a sitting president who bought a chamber pot worth P200 was castigated in the press for his excesses—as if the expense severely impaired the nation's financial status. (Of course, the minimum wage then was P120 a month, but it was more than enough to feed families three square meals a day and send children to school.)

When American comic magazines flooded this country, My favorite then was an issue about Superman battling an antihero called Bizarro, a guy from a faraway planet also called Bizarro, where everything was topsy-turvy. Bizarro was bizarre. He looked every way like Superman, except that his Superman face was a patch-up job, like Frankenstein's. He loved kryptonite.

I'm thinking of pestering one of our congressmen into sponsoring a bill changing the name of the Philippines to "Bizarro." He might not go along with my idea, but one never knows. Legislators are known to be capable of doing bizarre things themselves. I remember that years ago a congressman filed a bill outlawing—of all things—typhoons. Unfortunately, the bill was not passed. We would have saved by now trillions of pesos from typhoon damage. No typhoon would have dared enter the country for fear of imprisonment or the electric chair.

—JESUS V. LANUZA,
mama_lindsy@yahoo.com

Bohol governor urged to turn boxing loss into win

THE PHILIPPINES' VICTORY over Mexico, which demonstrated the superior strength and skill of the Filipino in the boxing ring—exemplified most especially by 35-year-old Gerry Peñalosa's phenomenal triumph over an opponent a decade younger and five inches taller—overwhelmed the nation with pride and euphoria, albeit the loss of the highly touted Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista was slightly disheartening.

What was absolutely heartbreaking, though, was the news report that Bautista's shocking defeat cost his village in Candijay, Bohol a 1-kilometer cemented provincial road. (A dismayed Gov. Erico Aumentado announced he would no longer pursue the project, saying that he promised Bautista the road would be cemented, but only if he won.)

It is quite disturbing that a provincial road had been placed as a wager on a boxing match. It is appalling that a head of a local government unit would seriously take the wager to heart, instead of graciously pushing through with the project, thereby depriving an entire town of a basic infrastructure it is entitled to in the first place, regardless of the boxing performance of one of its young residents. It is as if providing basic services is merely a favor extended to constituents, not an obligation of the local government.

I would somehow understand the governor's explanation if he had intended to personally finance the project with his own money (say, winnings from Bautista's victory; since he lost, the governor would not have the funds).

I hope Governor Aumentado had been misquoted. Otherwise, I urge him to reconsider his decision. I am confident that the governor, who has been in public service for so long and who has made Bohol a prime tourist spot and envisaged nothing but prosperity for his province, will not just stop a project over such a trivial disappointment. He should look beyond the young athlete's loss (not aggravate it), and make it a win, nonetheless, for the latter's hometown.

—XILCA ALVAREZ,
xilca.alvarez@gmail.com

Clarifications re P12 wage hike

MAY WE RESPOND TO THE LETter of Renato Magtubo, which was published in the INQUIRER's Aug. 15 issue.

First, it is incorrect to say that Wage Order No. NCR-13 granted a P12/day cola. It integrated the existing P50 cola into the basic wage and granted an additional P12 to the daily basic wage.

Second, in 2006, out of 199,395 establishments in the National Capital Region, only 225 filed applications for exemption from Wage Order No. NCR-12. So, it is not true that only a small section of workers in the NCR benefits from the wage order due to numerous exemptions. There are 2.1 million workers in the NCR and not 17 million.

Third, since 1990, when the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB)-NCR was created, it has increased the non-agriculture minimum wage from P89 to P362 per day or an increase of P273 per day or 307 percent.

The increases that have been granted by the RTWPB-NCR are even higher than the increases granted through CBAs (collective bargaining agreements). So how could the RTWPB-NCR be a "clear and present danger to the welfare of the workers"?

Minimum wage-fixing is a difficult process. It must consider the interest of workers, employers and government.

Fourth, it is incorrect to say that the cost of living is P786 per day. The amount is the family living wage in the NCR as computed by the National Wages and Productivity Commission and it should not be equated with the minimum wage.

And lastly, since 1999, when the clamor for a P125/day legislated wage increase started, the RTWPB-NCR has granted a P164/day increase.

—AIDA TOLENTINO-ANDRES,
officer in charge,
board secretary VI, Regional
Wages and Productivity Board-NCR

NFA acts on rice diversion report

THIS IS REGARDING THE NEWS item "Gov't rice goes to black market in Bicol." (INQUIRER, 8/16/08)

National Food Authority administrator Jessup P. Navarro has ordered an investigation of the reported diversion of rice. For this purpose, he immediately sent to the Bicol region a team from our enforcement, investigation and prosecution department (EIPD).

Pending the result of the investigation, he also ordered the temporary suspension of rice deliveries to the Bigasan ng Bayan operators who are allegedly involved in the irregularity. We assure the public those found guilty will be properly dealt with. However, we are not limiting the investigation to the Bigasan ng Bayan operators. We are also looking into the possible involvement of NFA employees.

Allow us to take this opportunity to assure the public that we continue to regularly monitor public and private markets nationwide to discourage and preempt any attempt to manipulate the supply and price of government rice.

—REX C. ESTOPEREZ,
director, Public Affairs,
National Food Authority,
Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

Move on, give Zubiri a chance

JUAN MIGUEL ZUBIRI HAS FInally been declared as the 12th senator of our country. Despite the finality of the Supreme Court's and Comelec's decisions, it seems that some political people still haven't had enough of the issue.

Personally, I think it's about time that the country finally moved on from the political shindig of scandals caused by the recent senatorial elections. There are millions of issues to face in our country such as poverty, unemployment, corruption and others. There are millions of underprivileged Filipinos who need to be fed, educated and cared for. Perhaps, it would be better if everyone (politicians and ordinary citizens alike) just focus their energy on solving these problems, rather than just waste it on the issue of who should have the 12th seat.

If Aquilino Pimentel III is serious about serving the country, maybe this is the perfect time for him to start doing so. After all, one need not be a senator to be of help to others. He even has an advantage compared to ordinary people like me. His father is a senator, I'm sure he'd listen to his son's sensible suggestions on how to better the lives of his countrymen.

In the meantime, let's just observe Zubiri in action as a senator. Only his actions will justify how deserving he is of the coveted position. The earlier we let him start showing what he's got, the sooner we'll all know.

—CHELA MAE ANTONIO,
cgantonio_19@yahoo.com

Better armed but battered?

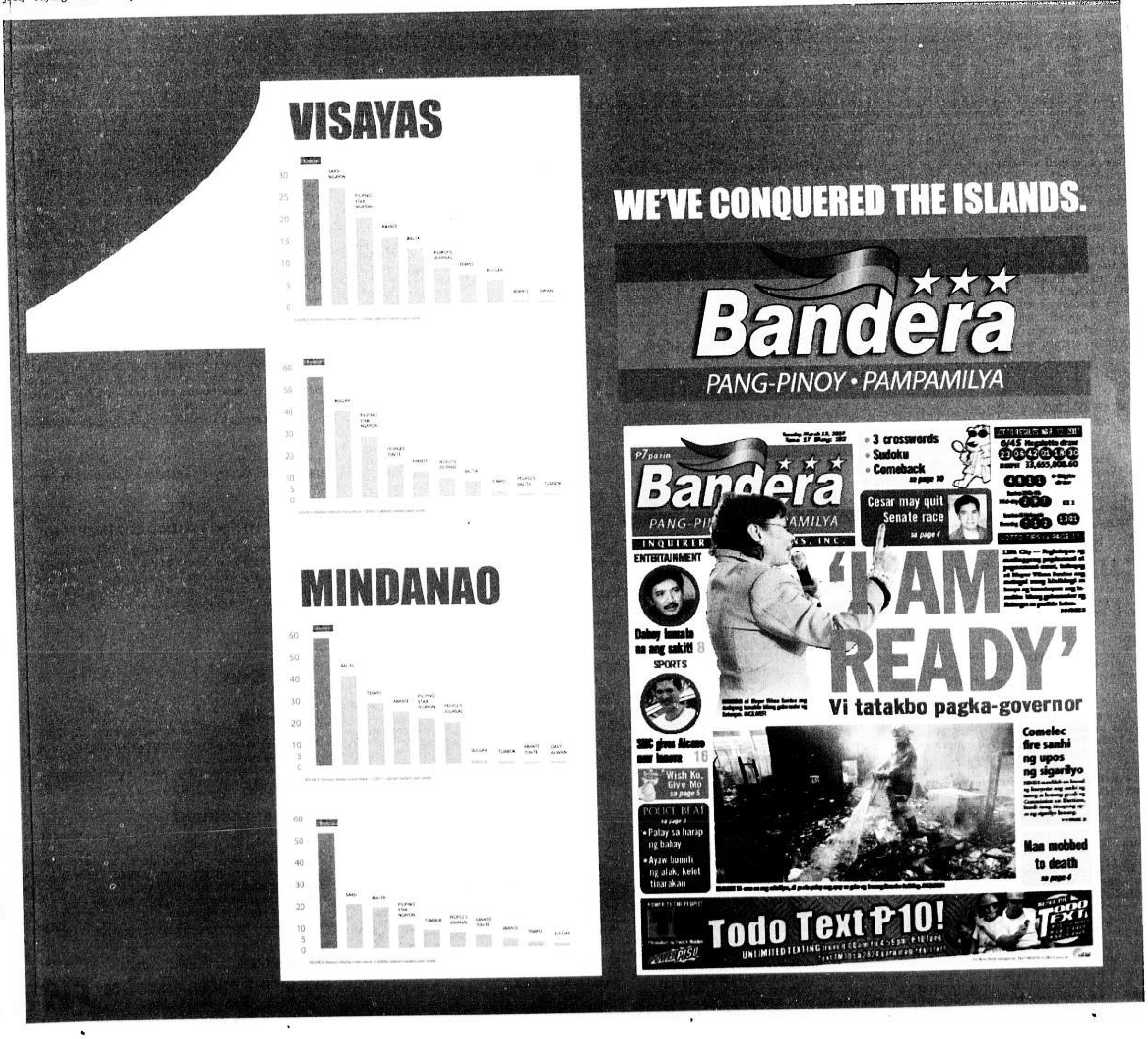
OUR MILITARY HAS MORE LOgistics than the bandits, and yet our soldiers are battered out there by the "fewer" terrorists. Why?

Perhaps, one reason is that we have lost many of our smartest field commanders. Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, Col. Ariel Querubin, Lt. Col. Achilles Segumalian, the Magdalo commanders and the rest of the most intelligent junior officers. Where are they now? Behind bars. Ah, that explains why many lowly (or lowly paid) privates, corporals and sergeants of the military have lost their precious lives.

We may still have the fiercest warriors but we have lost the wittiest ones. Fighting the rebels requires not just courage but also wits. Fight with the mind more than with the emotion.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, for how long must we suffer the mournful cries of the orphans of dead, brave soldiers?

—RAYMOND LABRADOR,
mondrine@yahoo.com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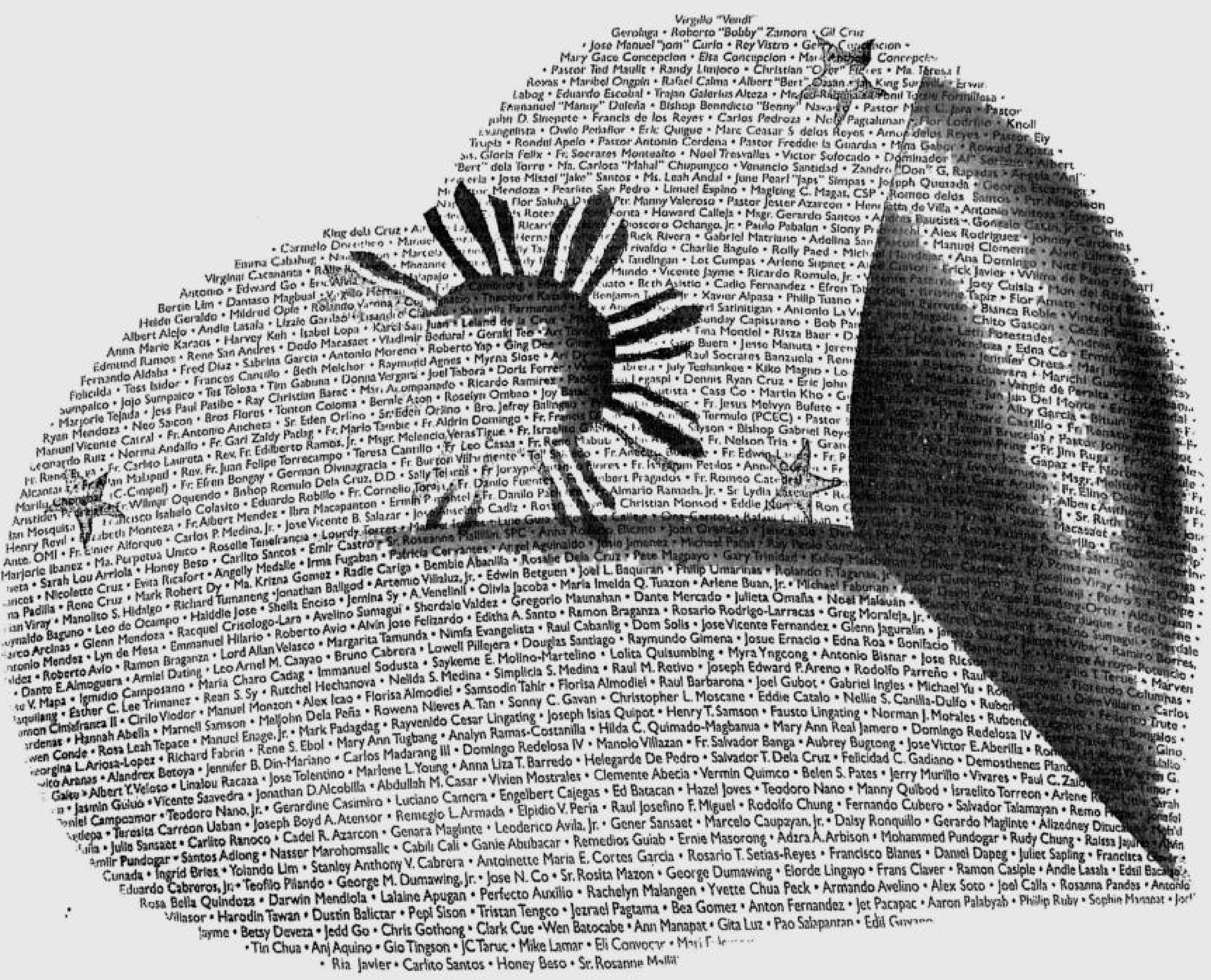
VISAYAS
MINDANAO
WE'VE CONQUERED THE ISLANDS.
Bandera
PANG-PINOY • PAMPAMILYA
Cesar may quit Senate race
'I AM READY'
Vi tatakbo pagka-governor
Comelec fire sanhi ng upos ng sigarilyo
Man mobbed to death
Todo Text P10!



TOUGH LOVE.

During the elections,
Filipinos showed what heroes are made of.

Let's not stop now.

On the days leading up to and following Election Day, hundreds of thousands of Filipinos came together to educate voters, to pollwatch, to count, tabulate and safeguard the canvassing of votes. In the process, some were harassed, threatened, hurt or even killed. They gave their time, talent and energy, planning new strategies, and anticipating all possible means of cheating or subverting the electoral process. They did not always succeed, but they forged on, bound by the belief that democracy is a gift we must defend and deepen. That politics and governance are our collective responsibility. That in building our nation, we must all do our share. We honor all the volunteers, members and partners of Namfrel, PPCRV, CBCP-Nassa, Lente, Makati Business Club, Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan, Bantay Eleksyon, One Voice, IBP, Pera't Pulitika and Pinoy Bantay Bayan. The process has shown us that when we come together out of a common love for country, we can make a difference. Let us use this strength to call for electoral reforms, particularly the appointment of a COMELEC Chairman and Commissioners with integrity and competence. Let us also hold our newly-elected officials accountable to the voters that placed them in office. The fight for genuine democracy is long and difficult. But together, we can triumph.

Pinoy Bantay Bayan · Bantay Eleksyon '07 · Makati Business Club · VForCE 1 Million Volunteers for Clean Elections · CBCP NASSA · Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan · One Voice · Pera't Pulitika

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Battalion pulled out of Bohol for Sulu

CEBU CITY—A BATTALION OF SOLDIERS ASsigned to fight communist rebels in Bohol was sent to Jolo, Sulu to reinforce government troops now conducting operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Central Command (Centcom) based in Cebu, said the 15th Infantry Battalion, headed by Lt. Col. Henry Dar, was deployed to Sulu since Aug. 11.

The troops, numbering from 600 to 700, were pulled out late last month from their headquarters in Carmen, Bohol to augment forces fighting in Sulu in the wake of the all out military offensive against Abu Sayyaf following the beheading of 10 Marines last July 10 in Basilan province.

Veterans

Omandam said the troops were first sent to the Army training base in Jamindan, Capiz for combat retraining before they were sent to Sulu starting Aug. 11 through a C-130 plane from the Roxas City airport.

"They were sent to Jolo, Sulu for the purpose of augmenting the troops there ... They are already in the ground and actually they are now conducting the operation as part of the larger group," Omandam said.

Omandam assured that the soldiers from the 15th IB have been properly trained on combat operations.

Omandam said these soldiers were also considered veterans, as they had been involved in major combat operations before they were assigned to Bohol.

"The 15th IB has been existing for a long time and they had figured with remarkable accomplishments in terms of combat operation in Mindanao and in Samar," Omandam said.

Meanwhile, Omandam yesterday confirmed that four of the 15 Marines who were killed in a new round of encounter in Basilan last Saturday came from the Visayas.

Omandam said two of the fatalities came from Dumaguete City, one from Leyte and one from Capiz.

Collateral damage

A Muslim leader in Cebu, Hadji Nashier Ismael, the former chair of the Metro Cebu Peace and Order Council, has joined calls to stop the war in Mindanao.

Ismael asked the government to withdraw the troops and let the police solve the case of the beheading of the Marines.

The military said 14 persons, including women and children, were arrested in Indanan, Sulu on Sunday for allegedly possessing firearms.

Task Force Comet chief Maj. Gen. Reuben Rafael confirmed to reporters the apprehension of 14 persons, but said only five, suspected to be members of the Abu Sayyaf, remain in their custody.

"They have with them in their possession high-powered firearms," Rafael said.

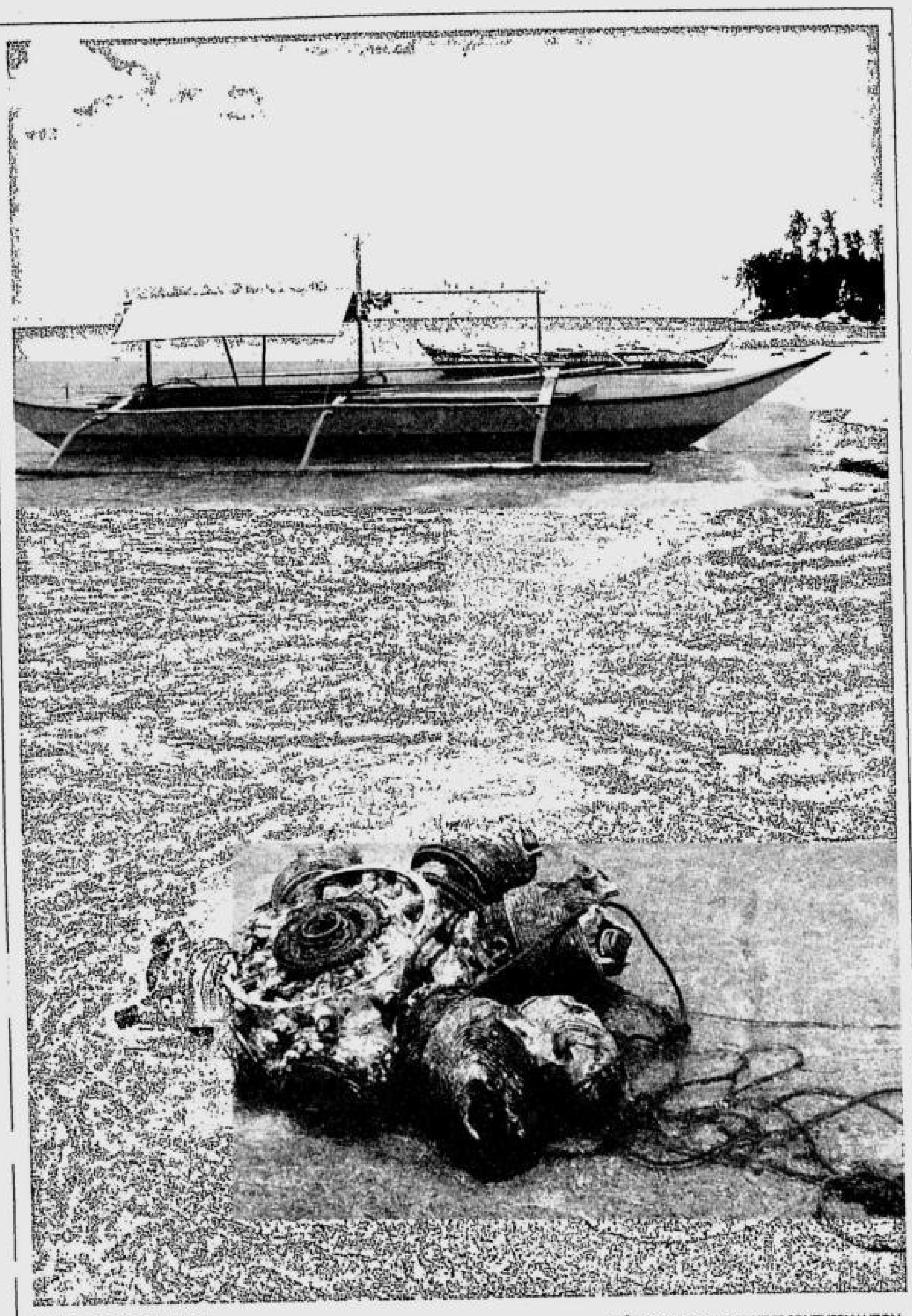
High-powered guns

Joint Special Operations Force chief Brig. Gen. Ruperto Pabustan said it was impossible for any ordinary individual "to have in possession these types of firearms," as he showed to reporters in Sulu the M-16 rifles and ammunition allegedly confiscated from the suspects.

Temojen "Cocoy" Tulawie, of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society, and Fatmawati Salapuddin, public relations officer of the Lupah Sug Bangsamoro Women's Association based in Sulu, confirmed the arrest.

Tulawie said the children and women were released on Sunday morning, but some of the men were interrogated by the 104th Army Brigade.

He revealed that the eight men yielded three M-16 Armalite rifles. *Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*



NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

SEA CREATURE
What appears to be a sea creature lies on the shore of Bacacay, Albay near a parked boat. The creature turned out to be the engine of an aircraft believed to have been used during World War II. The engine's seal has been found by fishermen and showed its manufacturing date to be in the 1940s.

Koreans who bought houses in Baguio face cases from BI

BAGUIO CITY—A TASK FORCE led by the Bureau of Immigration that was formed to address complaints filed against Koreans based here has confirmed that three foreigners have been violating Philippine laws on foreign ownership of property or business.

In a report sent to Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan last week, the task force urged him to sue three Koreans for allegedly violating constitutional provisions that restrict foreigners from owning more than 40 percent of any property or business, according to a member of the task force.

The source asked for anonymity saying Libanan has given instructions that he would make the announcements about the cases.

He also declined to identify the Korean suspects.

But the operation of the task force, which was formed in July, has since evolved beyond a simple crackdown against Koreans violating the law.

At a press conference last week, Antonio Prieto, chief of the BI's Baguio office, said the task force is now mandated to implement bilateral trade and economic agreements that the Philippine government made with various Asian and European countries.

It is also tasked with executing trade liberalization laws which reinforce constitutional prohibitions against foreign ownership "and which guide foreign investors as to how far they are allowed to do business in this country," Prieto said.

Two Japanese also based in Baguio are now being investigated to determine whether their business transactions with the city government are allowed by law and by their country's bilateral agreement with the Philippines.

These Japanese are married to Filipinos, according to the task force source.

Over 6,000 Koreans have permits to stay for six months in Baguio. Many of these Koreans are students enrolled in local grade schools, high schools and universities.

Other Koreans are enrolled in English language schools operated by firms owned by Filipinos and Koreans.

Prieto said Baguio hosts the second largest community of Koreans in the Philippines. During peak tourist season, 1,000 Koreans stay in Baguio for two weeks for its cold weather. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

1st LRT system outside Metro Manila sought in Cebu

CEBU CITY—A MODERN, EFFICIENT and reliable light rail transit (LRT) system is now being planned for Cebu amid its rapid population growth and economic expansion.

House Bill 310, authored by Cebu first district Rep. Eduardo Gullas, sought to establish the province's first LRT system meant to ease heavy motor vehicle traffic in one of the country's fastest-growing urban hubs.

"There is no question Cebu desperately needs a fast, safe, convenient and economical LRT system," said Gullas in an e-mailed statement yesterday.

Gullas said this would be the best time for the government to invest in a new LRT system for Cebu because of the strengthening of the peso against the US dollar.

Two years ago, he said, it would have cost the government P55 billion to put together a $1-billion LRT system in Cebu. "Now, it would cost us only P46 billion to put up the same project," he added.

Gullas said he took the initiative to revive the LRT plan for Cebu in the wake of the national government's interest to reinforce Cebu's infrastructure support under the Central Philippines Investment Program (CPIP).

Under the program, Malacañang approved some P60.8-billion worth of fresh public infrastructure spending for Cebu until 2010, P33 billion of which would be initially allocated for the proposed Metro Cebu Mass Transportation System (MCMTS), Gullas said.

The MCMTS involves the construction of a modern railway network from the southern city of Talisay to the town of Consolacion in the north for the first phase; and from Talisay to Carcar City in the south, and Consolacion to Danao City in the north for the second phase.

The system would be the country's ninth and the first outside Metro Manila, which now has eight LRT channels that are either fully operational, under construction, or in the drawing boards, Gullas said.

Gullas proposed that the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) be tasked with preparing and executing a plan to establish and operate the new LRT system.

Gullas said DOTC already has a plan to build a $1-billion LRT system for Metro Cebu but it was stalled because of difficulty in attracting lower offers from private contractors.

The deferred project involved a build-operate-transfer agreement between the DOTC and the AMA Group of Holdings Corp. for the construction of a 71-kilometer, three-phased LRT system that would run through Metro Cebu from Carcar City in the south to Danao City in the north. *Inquirer Visayas Bureau*

Villagers told to keep watch over closed mining site

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—NO landslide or water spill has occurred at a closed mining site in Zambales following strong rains by typhoons Chedeng and Egay.

However, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Central Luzon has advised the Dizon Copper-Silver Mines Inc. (DCSMI) to step up measures to reduce the hazards to lives and environment in San Marcelino and Castillejos towns, a report from the MGB regional office showed.

The MGB said it is concerned with the conditions of the Kaline pit, Bayarong tailings dam and the Camalca silt dam at the DCSMI's site in the upland village of Buhawen in San Marcelino.

"These have held on but the hazards still remained," said Edgardo Zapata, MGB senior environmental management specialist, in a phone interview on Monday.

The agency continued to assess the situation at the mine site in compliance with a Department of Environment and Natural Resources memorandum to conduct "strict monitoring of all environmentally damage-prone areas in the country," Zapata and senior science research specialist Nixon Dalapus said in their report.

A close watch was needed because, according to the report, the open pit had collapsed before 1997, prompting the DCSMI and its partner, the then Benguet Consolidated (now Benguet Corp.) to stop mining after 18 years of operations. The pit was the major source of ore.

The tailings and silt dams, on the other hand, had breached at various times before and after Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions, causing overflows and breakout of mine wastes that contaminated the Mapanuepe Lake and its tributaries.

At least five communities of Aeta and upland farmers had complained about the pollution of their fishing grounds and irrigation sources since 1998.

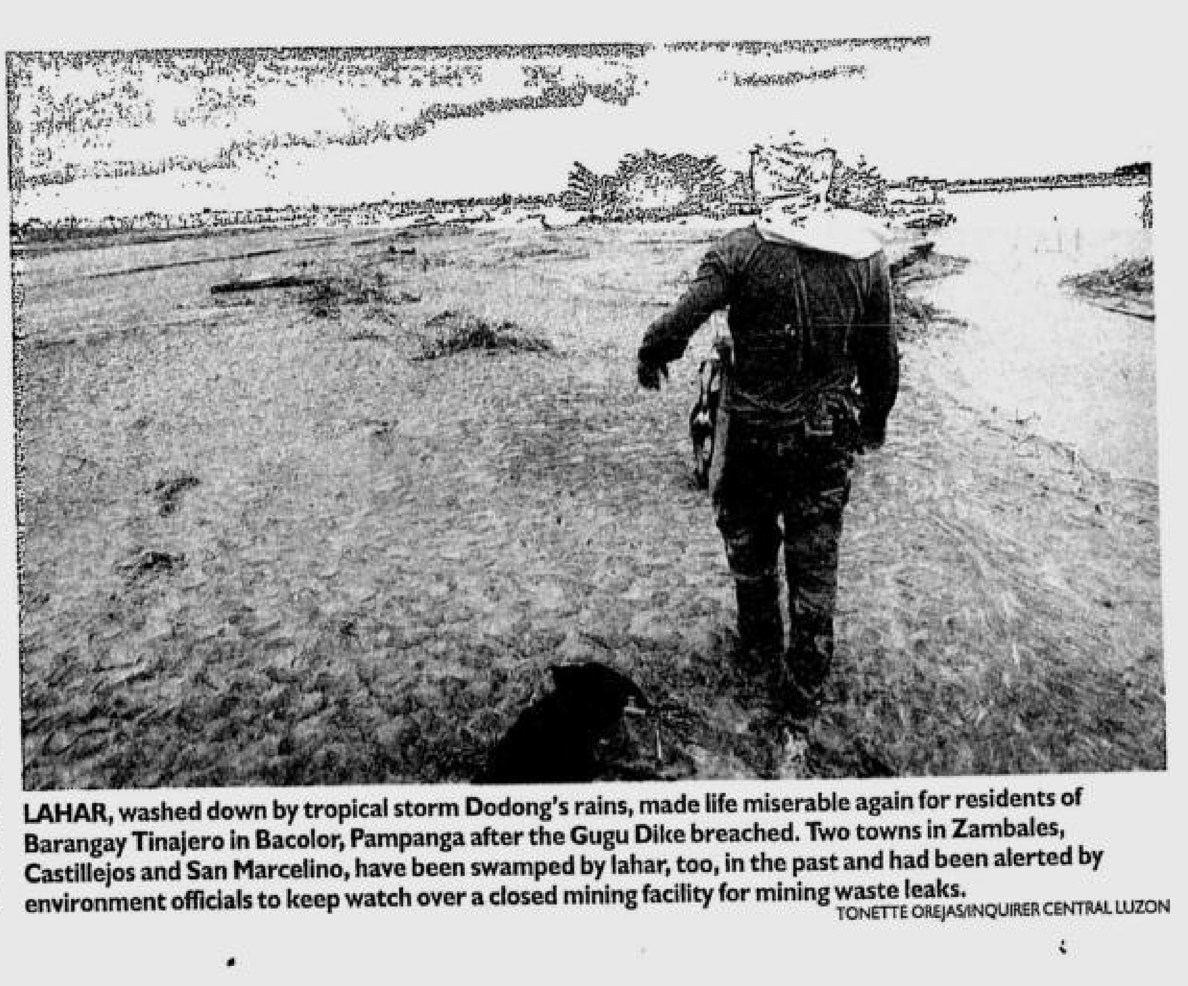
The DCSMI has so far done "selective maintenance" on the structures, "particularly the Bayarong tailings dam," the report said.

In July, the MGB recommended repairs mainly on the two dams to "prevent further siltation of the downstream areas." The mine site is about 2 km from San Marcelino and Castillejos where 200,000 people live.

Barangays Buhawen, a former village of mine workers, and Camalca are the nearest areas to the mine site.

"It is evident that some physical hazards exist in the mine site of DCSMI. The wall of Kaline pit showed active landslides. The pit is presently filled with water and the level of which [is] 3 meters below the pit spillway," the report said.

A member of the Dizon family said while the company had planned corrective measures before closure, the repairs had been slowed by business feuds among the heirs of Don Celestino Dizon, the first person to stake mineral claims in the area in 1935.



LAHAR, washed down by tropical storm Dodong's rains, made life miserable again for residents of Barangay Tinajero in Bacolor, Pampanga after the Gugu Dike breached. Two towns in Zambales, Castillejos and San Marcelino, have been swamped by lahar, too, in the past and had been alerted by environment officials to keep watch over a closed mining facility for mining waste leaks.
TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Narvasa: We should close book on Ninoy's murder

From page A1

ed the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and installed Aquino's widow, Corazon, as president.

"Better left closed. No sense anymore in trying to find out (who ordered his killing). If anything could be found out, it would have been revealed by this time. If we haven't found out by this time, we will never find out," Narvasa told the INQUIRER.

"Ver is dead, Marcos is dead. I don't think we will ever find out," he said. Gen. Fabian Ver was Marcos' Armed Forces chief of staff.

Filipinos, Narvasa said, are better off honoring Ninoy and the lessons of his martyrdom.

"Ninoy is being honored as a hero, a martyr for truth and freedom. Let it be that way. I think Ninoy would opt for reconciliation rather than vengeance," Narvasa said.

Referring to the convicted soldiers serving life sentences for the assassination, Narvasa said: "I haven't really thought about it but they have been in jail for more than 10 years. I think they have suffered enough and maybe it's time to set them free."

Besides, he agreed that the soldiers were the "small fry" in the grand conspiracy which sparked the historic Edsa revolution that brought down the Marcos dictatorship.

Narvasa, 78, said he could no longer remember details of the Agrava report, save for the excitement of the yearlong probe and Marcos' chilling words when he and the four members of the panel submitted the report to him in October 1984 in Malacañang.

'It's finished'

"As far as we are concerned, we have unearthed the truth and disclosed it. Probably many people do not agree with us, who feel that the real cuplrits have not been unmasked. But as far as we are concerned, it's finished, functus oficio," he said.

Narvasa had initially declined to be interviewed, saying he was "retired" and had written a book about the investigation. He said he did not wish to revisit that dark period in the country's history. "If somebody talks to me about it, it comes back to me. Otherwise, I don't think of it," he said.

Retirement means playing golf twice a week, enjoying his 15 grandchildren and giving legal advice to detained President Joseph Estrada.

Created by Marcos to investigate the Aquino assassination, the Agrava board spent one year culling evidence and interviewing 193 witnesses, collating 20,000 pages of testimony.

It submitted two separate reports which said the military was responsible for the murders of Aquino and his alleged assassin, Rolando Galman.

Split

However, the commission was split on how high up the military hierarchy the murder went.

The commission's chair, the late Court of Appeals Justice Corazon Agrava, issued her minority report clearing Ver. Narvasa was joined by the other members—Amando Dizon, Luciano Salazar, Dante Santos and Ernesto Herrera in the majority report which said Ver, Gen. Luther Custodio and Avsecom chief Gen. Prospero Olivas were involved in the assassination.

The majority report was seen as adding holes to the sinking ship that was the Marcos regime.

Narvasa was credited with meticulously piecing the evidence together. His stubborn independence irked Marcos who tried to dilute his powers. But Narvasa persisted.

Narvasa recalled that the board majority was incredulous at the military version that Aquino was killed by Galman.

"We found it hard to believe he could be loitering there under the stairs and he conveniently shot Ninoy. We were suspicious about the whole thing," he said, adding the board was vindicated during the Sandiganbayan trial when it was established that one of the soldiers who escorted Ninoy off the China Airlines plane was the one who shot him.

Still a mystery

Indeed, the Ninoy assassination remains a mystery despite the findings of the commission, Narvasa admitted.

"There was no direct evidence on who was the mastermind," he said, adding that even with respect to Ver directing the operation there was only "circumstantial evidence."

"The burning question at that time was whether it was President Marcos or the First Lady (who ordered it), I have to be frank there was no evidence pointing either way," he said. "There was no direct evidence. They remained speculations."

"Doña Imelda, I don't think was deeply involved ... in such a dreadful thing. Maybe (she knows something) because she's the President's wife, she could not have been excluded from conversations by President Marcos," he said.

Narvasa said even the theory about business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's role in the assassination came up, but that there was not a shred of evidence about it.

He said justice had been served with the conviction of the soldiers involved in the murder.

Ninoy's lessons

And with Marcos and Ver dead, he said: "God moves in mysterious ways."

Narvasa said Filipinos must take Ninoy's lessons to heart.

"We must love the truth. Find out what the truth is no matter who is involved. We may have enemies, lose friends but we must always find out what is the truth and live by it. We will be happier and we'll be honored by it," he said.

Did he feel the board, though it failed to tag the mastermind, live up to that?

"Yes, I hope so. What is important is we tried, we have not compromised and we have not closed our eyes to whatever we may find out," he said.

Could they have been wrong after all? "Being humans maybe but I don't think we're wrong. The evidence is there, we made conclusions on the basis of evidence which I think is logical and fair," he said.

Narvasa remembered the moment he and the four board members submitted the report to Marcos at the Palace as if it just happened yesterday. He recalls how Marcos rejected their report, and felt that "we did a grievous wrong."

Marcos never smiled

"We were waiting in the anteroom and when the report was about to be handed to him, he indicated a spot on his desk (where we should put it down) and said those chilling words: 'I hope you can live with your conscience after what you have done.' He never smiled," Narvasa said.

Did he live with his conscience? Narvasa laughed as he replied: "Oh yes. Comfortably."

When Ninoy's widow assumed power, she appointed Narvasa first as an associate justice of the Supreme Court in 1986 and then as Chief Justice in 1991, a post he held until his retirement in 1998.

In 1999, Narvasa was named by Estrada as chair of the Preparatory Commission for Constitutional Reform and in 2000, he served as lead counsel for Estrada during his impeachment trial in the Senate.

TIMELINE

Ninoy murder case

Aug. 21, 1983—OPPOSITION leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. is gunned down moments after disembarking a China Airlines plane at the Manila International Airport on his return from a self exile to the United States.

Also killed is Rolando Galman who the military claims was hired by communists to assassinate Aquino.

Aug. 24, 1983—President Ferdinand Marcos appoints a fact-finding commission headed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Enrique Fernando to investigate the Aquino murder but protests force its resignation.

Aug. 31, 1983—Aquino is entombed at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque after an 11-hour procession joined by 2 million Filipinos in the Philippines' longest and largest funeral that turns into a show of indignation against the Marcos regime.

Oct. 14, 1983—Marcos creates another fact-finding commission, this time headed by former Court of Appeals Justice Corazon Agrava.

Oct. 22, 1984—All members of the fact-finding board except Agrava release a report rejecting the military version that Galman shot Aquino dead and concluding that military officers, including Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver, conspired to kill the opposition leader. Agrava issues a separate report that does not mention Ver among military conspirators. The Supreme Court assigns the case to the Sandiganbayan.

Dec. 2, 1985—Sandiganbayan acquits all the accused under pressure from Malacañang.

Sept. 12, 1986—Supreme Court orders a retrial.

Sept. 16, 1986—Sandiganbayan orders the arrest of 25 military men, led by Ver, and a civilian.

Sept. 28, 1989—Marcos dies in exile at age 72 in Hawaii.

Sept. 27, 1990—Sandiganbayan finds 16 suspects guilty and sentences them to life imprisonment. Convicted are supposed gunman Constable Rogelio Moreno, Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio, Capt. Romeo Bautista, 2nd Lt. Jesus Castro, C1C Mario Lazaga, Sgt. Claro Lat, Sgt. Arnulfo de Mesa, Sgt. Filomeno Miranda, Sgt. Rolando de Guzman, Sgt. Ernesto Mateo, Sgt. Rodolfo Desolong, A1C Cordova Estelo, M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez, Sgt. Ruben Aquino, Sgt. Arnulfo Artates and A1C Felizardo Taran. However, no mastermind is named.

July 23, 1991—Supreme Court affirms the conviction.

Nov. 21, 1998—Ver dies of a lung ailment in Bangkok where he had been living in exile for four years, bringing to his grave the secret of Aquino's assassination. *Minerva Generalao and Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

2 guns that changed RP history rusting away

From page A1

into the head of opposition leader Benigno Aquino 24 years ago today at the Manila airport on his return from self-exile in the United States.

The charcoal-toned Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum pistol, with a grip made of deer horn, was discovered a few meters away from the body of the Aquino's alleged assassin, Rolando Galman, the "man in blue."

It had supposedly slipped from Galman's right hand after the soldiers, who acted as Aquino's escorts on his homecoming that fateful Sunday afternoon, gunned him down in retaliation.

The pistol is in a manila envelope inside the "security drawer" of the Sandiganbayan's evidence custodian, along with other weapons used in obscure crimes.

What makes it all the more curious though, aside from the yellowed tag that marked it as "Exhibit 32," is its "twin" gun that surfaced when the Supreme Court ordered a retrial of the Aquino-Galman double murder case in 1986.

"The gun with the deer horn handle was first submitted to the court as evidence in 1985. When the case was reopened, the other gun materialized," Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta told the INQUIRER.

The existence of the other gun, which has the same serial number "K919079" as the first one and was labeled by the anti-graft court as "Exhibit 12," only added to the mystery of Aquino's assassination.

Unaware of 2nd gun

Even the Agrava Fact-Finding Board that investigated Aquino's assassination was deprived of this particular piece of the puzzle.

This was noted by then Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Regino Hermosisima Jr. in a 177-page decision he penned in September 1990, ruling on the culpability of 16 soldiers in the murders of Aquino and Galman.

"Gen. Prospero Olivas [the former chief of the defunct Metropolitan Command] withheld from the fact-finding board that there were two .357 Magnum revolvers that bear the same serial number ... and that one of them was issued to a military man," he wrote.

The fact-finding panel, named after its chair, Court of Appeals Justice Corazon Agrava, was created by the dictator Ferdinand Marcos on Oct. 14, 1983.

Panel reports

The chair submitted her report after a yearlong inquiry that found that the Aquino murder was the result of a military conspiracy plotted by Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio, Sgt. Claro Lat, Sgt. Arnulfo de Mesa, Sgt. Felomino Miranda, Constable First Class Rogelio Moreno, Constable First Class Mario Lazaga and Sgt. Armando de la Cruz.

This, however, was disputed in an independent report by the four board members—Dante Santos, Amado Dizon, Ernesto Herrera and Luciano Salazar.

The report implicated Olivas and the late Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver in the Aquino murder.

As for the presence of a second gun, the fact-finding board was clueless. It was only in the course of the retrial that circumstances surrounding it were disclosed.

Owner of 2nd gun

In the 1990 decision, the gun's owner was identified as Col. Octavio Alvarez, who retired from the military on March 7, 1985.

This was his testimony:

Four years before the assassination, on Aug. 10, 1979, the pistol was stolen from his service car, which was parked at the Ateneo Graduate School, where he was working for a masters degree.

He immediately notified the school's chief security and filed a complaint with the Makati police upon learning that his service firearm was missing.

Five days later, Alvarez sent a letter to the chief of the Philippine Constabulary informing him of the stolen gun and also notified the Army supply and accountable officer.

Serial number

A week after Aquino's death, he received a phone call from a certain businessman named Rolando Chiu, who supposedly frequented his office when he was the provost marshal, admitting that he had copied the serial number of Alvarez's gun after accidentally tampering his own.

Claiming ownership of the gun, the officer had aired to the court his suspicion that the men of Col. Rolando Abadilla, the chief of PC Metrocom, were behind the theft.

Alvarez said Abadilla's presence at the tarmac before the assassination and his "long suspicious conference" with Galman showed a link between the military and his gun.

Upon hearing such "rumors," a fuming Olivas allegedly summoned Alvarez and forced him to retract his claims as it would appear that, being the chief investigator of the Aquino assassination, he was one of the planners of the assassination.

But Chiu narrated to the court a different account, saying that Alvarez gave him the pistol in exchange for the one that he gave to the officer's friend during his mother's birthday sometime in October 1975 or 1976.

The businessman claimed that Alvarez's friend "fell in love" with his snub-nose .357 Magnum pistol that he was compelled to give it away.

Unlicensed

Since the gun given to him by Alvarez was still unlicensed, he supposedly entrusted it to a friend, Sgt. Carlito Mariano, for safekeeping until he obtained the necessary permit.

After having been informed that the gun used in Aquino's assassination had the same serial number as the one given to him, he asked Mariano to turn it over to the Metropolitan Command.

Later, Alvarez met him at a restaurant and asked him for the gun. But he informed the officer that it was already surrendered to the Metrocom, Chiu said.

Like the second gun, the main subject of dispute has its fair share of intrigue.

Before it was found lying beside the lifeless Galman on the tarmac, the pistol with the "yellowish white" grip was allegedly sighted in the hands of Custodio's aide 2nd Lt. Jesus Castro, one of those convicted for the double murder case.

Jose Fronda Santos Jr., an ex-soldier and Aquino's former bodyguard, had testified that one week before Aquino was killed, he saw Castro "toying" with the gun and showing it around to several soldiers.

"This goes to show that preparations for the charade on Aug. 21, 1983, had been undertaken some time before the assassination," the decision read.

Preparations for charade

While the court concluded that neither of the two pistols was the weapon that killed Aquino, one of it being traced to a soldier bolstered suspicions that the military took part in the charade clouding Aquino's killing.

Both the majority report of the fact-finding board and the court resolved that it was either a .45 cal. or a .38 cal. pistol that was used in killing Aquino, dismissing Olivas' "magnum theory," which pointed to Galman as the killer and the weapon as the .357 Magnum pistol.

The court also maintained that it was Moreno who had actually shot Aquino from behind while negotiating the last few steps of the stairway and that he used a different gun. But the weapon and the masterminds are still unaccounted for up to now.

Meanwhile, the two Magnum revolvers will remain at the Sandiganbayan's bodega supposedly until the return of Capt. Felipe Valerio—the group commander of the Avsecom 805th Special Operations Squadron, who might be the last key to the mystery shrouding Aquino's death.

"It will only be turned over to the Camp Crame when Valerio has already been accounted for," surmised Urieta.

It's raining Ramons on Magsaysay Day

From page A1

launch of a project to plant 100,000 trees across the country in memory of the late President Ramon Magsaysay.

They were on top of the 100 other Ramons who signed up earlier to lead in the planting of the trees around the country from Aug. 31—Magsaysay's 100th birth anniversary—to March 17 next year.

"It looks like we're going to run out of trees because of the high number of signatories," Mother Earth convenor Odette Alcantara chuckled at the launch of the project in her home in Blue Ridge, Quezon City.

Since more than 100 Ramons had signed up, Alcantara said she would group them into five clusters, and assign them different tasks.

The target sites include Mt. Manunggal in Cebu (where Magsaysay died in a plane crash on March 17, 1957), Mt. Pinatubo (the name of the ill-fated presidential plane) in Zambales, and other areas visited by Magsaysay.

"The planet is in bad shape. And only people participation can help heal it. I don't know of any public servant better associated with love of people than Ramon Magsaysay," Alcantara said, explaining the idea of paying tribute to Magsaysay, among all the Philippine presidents.

Magsaysay inspired the love of the masses during his short-lived term. Magsaysay served as President for two years, two months and 22 days.

He must be grinning

Mila Magsaysay-Valenzuela said her father, who would always "marvel at roads lined with fire trees," would never have imagined that 50 years after his death, the country would be facing the threat of global warming.

"It's a good thing that there are Ramons who will do something about it," she said at the end of the program interspersed with singing by tenors and by veteran journalist Nestor Mata, and a recitation of the Joyce Kilmer poem "Trees" by 8-year-old Ramon Madrid.

"He's watching over us, and he's grinning from ear to ear," Valenzuela said of her father.

The project to plant 100,000 trees in memory of Magsaysay is part of the "Trees for Life" joint project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Green Army Foundation.

It targets the reforestation of protected areas, critical watersheds, mangrove and coastal areas, agro-forestry and fruit tree areas, urban parks, green campuses, camps and subdivisions.

Thousands of Ramons

The 100-plus Ramons who have signed up for the project will lead thousands of other Ramons in the country in the tree-planting operation.

As of yesterday, over 1,000 Ramons have committed to plant trees in Mt. Manunggal, according to Alcantara.

A priest, Fr. Ben Beltran, is tapping 3,000 Ramons in his parish in Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila, to plant trees in Mt. Aya-as in Marikina City, she said.

Former Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said the family was flattered by the NGOs' decision to honor their father by planting trees in his name.

"This is a unique situation where the family feels very appreciative, at the same time embarrassed about it because it carries my late father's name," he said.

'WE HAVE TO BE DIFFERENT'

Noynoy Aquino also rises

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE POSTER BEHIND HIS DESK shows the stark photo of the fallen senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. lying in a pool of blood on the tarmac of the former Manila International Airport, since renamed the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Today, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III looks back at the assassination of his father on Aug. 21, 1983, 24 years to date, as well as his own close encounter with political violence, to reiterate his belief that the "Filipino is worth dying for"—his father's well-quoted paean to sacrifice, nonviolent struggle and democracy.

The assassination of Ninoy Aquino, then the symbol of opposition to the Marcos dictatorship, mobilized close to two million people in the biggest funeral procession in the country's history, eventually leading to the people power revolt that toppled 14 years of one-man rule and swept his widow, Corazon, to power in 1986.

Noynoy was only 23 years old then.

Own bloody encounter

On Aug. 28, 1987, with his mother only 18 months in Malacañang, Noynoy himself barely escaped his own violent death.

Rebel soldiers under the command of then Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, one of the leaders of the people power revolt of '86 had attacked Malacañang. Noynoy and his four security escorts were fired upon two blocks from the Palace. Three of his escorts were killed, the last was wounded protecting him.

Noynoy himself took five bullets, one of which is still embedded in his neck.

In a recent interview, he bared his anguish over all the violence his family has had to endure. "*Ako ang anak na lalaki...ganoon na lang ba iyon* (I am the male child...do we leave it at that)?"

He said he had told himself: "We have to be different from those that we are opposing or replacing, otherwise we'll just have a merry-go-round. *Wala rin talagang mangyayari* (Nothing will really change)."

Now a senator, it cannot be easy sitting every day across from Honasan, the man who reportedly tried to kill him and his mother in several coup attempts, who is now also a senator for the second time.

Noynoy paused for several seconds.

Bury his escorts

"You know, I had to bury three of my security (escorts)," he said. One of them, he said, had his child born about a month later. The other two were about to get married.

He was also asked how he felt sitting across from Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Marcos' defense minister who subsequently led the military mutiny that triggered the people power revolt, and who was later sacked from the same position in the Aquino Cabinet over rumors he had backed Honasan's coup attempt.

"I really try not to take things personally, even though I may have a lot of grounds (to do so)," he said.

"There are (those) whom you know you do not trust. The minute *na tumayo, alam mo na kailangan mo na rin tumayo, sabayan mo na.* (The minute they stand up, you know you also have to get up, to be ready at the same time)."

"If they stand up for something which I think is wrong, I will oppose it as far as I can in all legal ways possible," he said.

He continued: "I will be the last to advocate a violent mode for change. Because if there's one thing that I really had impressed upon me, it's that the minute violence erupts it's uncontrollable and there are no victors, regardless of who survives."

No comment on FM Jr.

On the entry of Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. into politics, Noynoy preferred not to comment. The son of his father's archrival won a seat in the House of Representatives after several terms as governor of Ilocos Norte.

A three-term congressman from his home province of Tarlac, Noynoy said he had a hard time convincing his mother and sisters to support his decision to run for a Senate seat in May.

His mother, who had called for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal, had warned him that Malacañang would put the heat on him.

Noynoy said he was pragmatic about his chances: "Well, you hope (to win). But I think my main function really was to focus on the issues."

His advocacies include electoral reform, oversight on intelligence funds and public accountability.

"At the end of the day, democracy is the best system in the world. We really just have to fine-tune it and insist that it head in the right direction," he said.

Spoken like his father's son.

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DID YOU KNOW

ON THE FOURTH death anniversary of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., who was assassinated on Aug. 21, 1983 at the Manila International Airport (which was later renamed after him), the Central Bank of the Philippines issued the P500 bill which bears the likeness of the late opposition leader. It was then the highest-valued bank note, which was worth about $25.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

3 kidnap suspects dead in shootout

Joint police team rescues gang's victim in Antipolo City safe house

By Kristine L. Alave and Jeannette I. Andrade

THREE SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF A KIDnap gang were killed in a shootout Sunday night with policemen in Antipolo City. The group's victim, Gurmukh Singh, 41, an Indian businessman and a resident of Bago Bantay, Quezon City, was rescued unhurt.

Operatives of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response, Quezon City Police District and Rizal police launched a manhunt for Singh after witnesses saw armed men force him into a vehicle Sunday morning.

Three of his kidnappers were shot dead by policemen who stormed their safe house in Kingsville Royal Subdivision, Barangay Inarawan, Antipolo City at 9:40 p.m. the same day.

They were identified as Eric Amban Buhoy, said to be a former Army sergeant and resident of Tandang Sora, Quezon City and Troy Bello, of Taguig City. The third suspect has yet to be identified.

Police are still looking for other members of the group who escaped.

According to Rizal police chief Senior Supt. Freddie Panen, the suspects were members of the Sibuyas kidnap for ransom gang which operates in Metro Manila and nearby provinces targeting Indian businessmen.

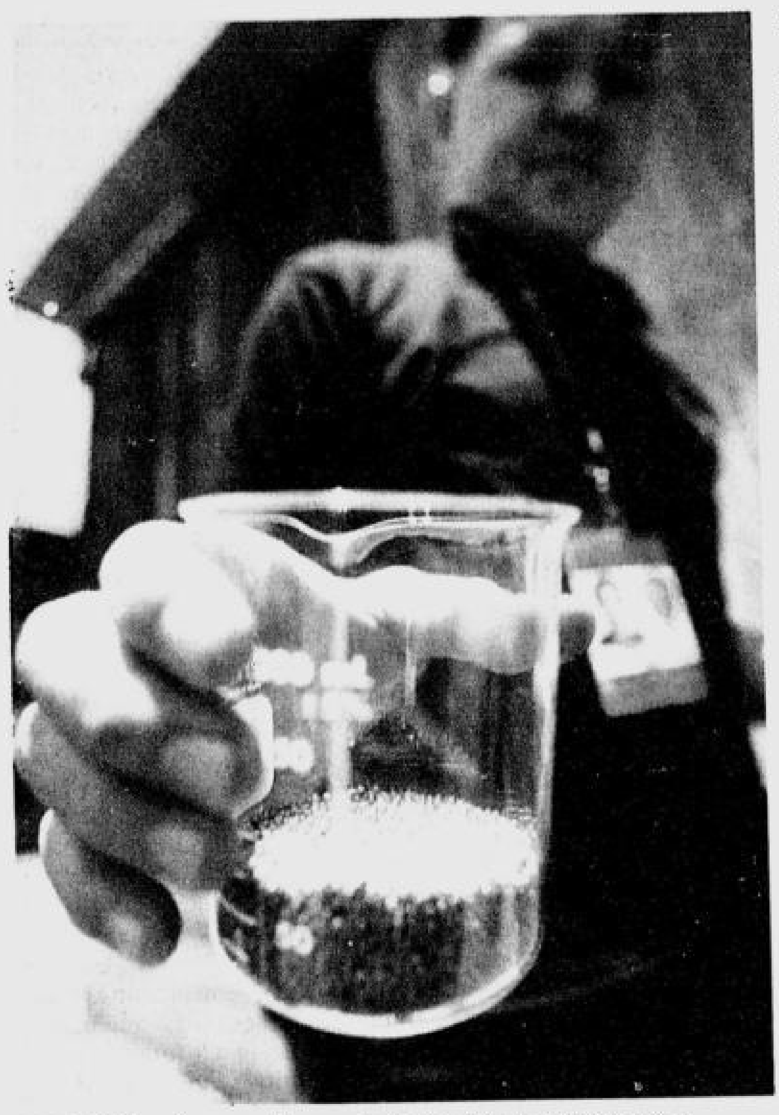
Investigators were checking the suspects' background as there were indications that they were former military men, he added.

Singh was driving his motorcycle on Fort Santiago St. in Bago Bantay, Quezon City at 7:30 a.m. Sunday when armed men blocked his path and forced him into one of two vehicles: A red Mitsubishi Lancer (license plate PTS 639) and a taxi cab (license plate PNC 177).

Witnesses, however, reported the incident to the police who were able to find the Lancer inside the Antipolo City subdivision.

Singh's family later told investigators that the suspects had contacted them and demanded P2 million for his release.

Recovered from the safe house were three cal. .45 pistols, the Lancer, a hand grenade, 13 cal. .45 magazines and other ammunition. *With Alcuin Papa*



A MANILA policeman shows a beaker containing some of the chemicals found inside a truck yesterday. The chemicals are allegedly among the ingredients used to manufacture shabu. REM ZAMORA

Abandoned truck in Sta. Cruz parking lot yields shabu chemicals

By Tina S. Santos

SEVERAL CONTAINERS FILLED with chemicals allegedly used in making methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu were seized by police yesterday in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Supt. Roderick Mariano, chief of the Manila Police District Anti-Illegal Drugs unit, said they found the chemicals inside an Isuzu delivery truck (WKG 622) that had been abandoned at a pay parking lot on Tomas Mapua St. since May.

Inside the truck were seven boxes—each one containing 20 500mg bottles of red phosphorous—and 20 containers filled with iodine sulfate.

The chemicals, police said, are mixed with ephedrine to make shabu.

Mariano said they found the chemicals after residents in the area complained of a foul odor coming from the vehicle, prompting the owner of the parking lot to call the police.

Operatives of the MPD Explosives and Ordnance Divisions were deployed to the area with four bomb-sniffing dogs.

When one of the dogs sat near the truck, authorities first thought that there were chemical explosives inside the vehicle.

Mariano said they have yet to determine the amount of chemicals seized although Mayor Alfredo Lim said these could produce around P200 million worth of shabu.

Investigation showed that the van was registered at the pay parking area under the name of Mark Chua.

An employee said Chua paid a monthly parking fee of P3,000 from January to March but has not returned since May to claim the vehicle.

Mariano said a check of the truck's license plate showed that it is owned by the Lovo Oriental Corp., a Makati City -based firm.

Police on lookout for man who paid funeral home in QC P80,000 in fake bills

By Jeannette I. Andrade

OPERATIVES OF THE QUEZON City Police District (QCPD) are looking for a man who paid for his companion's funeral with 80 pieces of P1,000 bills believed to be counterfeit.

Reports from the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU) identified the suspect as Larry Nocum.

The police said Nocum hired the Arlington Memorial Chapel at on G. Araneta Avenue, Barangay Doña Imelda in New Manila, Quezon City for the wake and funeral of Mercy Velasquez Cruz.

After Cruz was buried on Saturday morning, Nocum went to the funeral home to pay for the services.

Upon learning he was being charged P80,000, he paid the amount in P1,000 bills, giving the money to funeral home cashier Maritess Tagarino.

The cashier said that she did not suspect anything was amiss and did not check if the money was genuine by running the bills through a fake bill detector.

She added that it was only after the suspect had left that she discovered all of the bills were fake.

QCPD-CIDU operatives are still determining the source of the counterfeit money.

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Q. What is the BL-5C battery issue in Nokia phones all about?

A. Nokia has several suppliers for BL-5C batteries who have collectively produced more than 300 million BL-5C batteries. Nokia has issued an advisory which applies only to the 46 million batteries manufactured by Matsushita Battery Industrial Co. Ltd. of Japan between December 2005 and November 2006 from which there have been approximately 100 incidents of overheating reported globally. No serious injuries or property damage have been reported.

Q. Why has Nokia issued a product advisory?

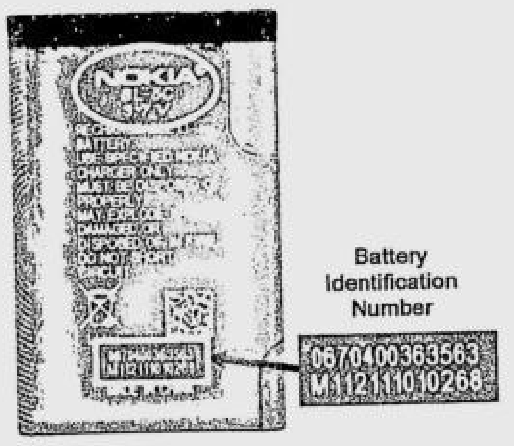
A. Nokia has issued a product advisory because the reliability and quality of our products, and the safety of our customers, is our top priority. Our effort is to make sure you spot a BL-5C battery and know what to do in case your phone has a BL-5C battery.

Q. How do I identify the BL-5C battery?

A. Remove the battery from the phone. The battery will have a "NOKIA" and the battery model printed on the front of the battery. Check if the model is BL-5C. BL-5CA is different from BL-5C and is not subject to this product advisory.

On the reverse of the battery, the Nokia mark appears at the top and the battery identification number (consisting of 26 characters) is found at the bottom. This 26 character code helps us identify whether your battery is covered under the advisory and needs to be replaced.

If the battery identification number does not contain 26 characters, it is not subject to this product advisory.



NOKIA

Q. What do I do if I have a BL-5C battery?

A. If your battery is covered under the advisory, you will be advised to replace your battery. A new free battery will be delivered at your doorstep by courier in exchange of your old battery.

To find out if your battery is part of the Matsushita batch, please contact us using any of the following options:

1. Log on to www.nokia.com/batteryreplacement
2. Call the Nokia Careline at 886-1234 (open from 8:30am to 8:30pm, Monday to Sunday)
3. Visit any of the Nokia Care Centers*
4. Visit any of the Netopia Internet Cafés all over the country for a 15-minute free Internet access to www.nokia.com/batteryreplacement (free access from August 21 – August 31, 2007)

For all other cases not covered under the advisory, you can safely continue to use your battery.

* Digital Exchange, 3/F Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City • 2/F Greenbelt 1, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City • 3rd Level, Alabang Town Center, Alabang Zapote Road, Alabang • Unit 30, Upper Ground Floor, Ali Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City • Unit 2 & 3 Lansbergh Place, 170 Tomas Morato corner Scout Castor Street, Quezon City • Unit 161-162 Cyberzone, SM City North Edsa, Quezon City • 2/F BF Building, N. Escario Street, Cebu City • 3rd Level Gaisano Mall of Davao, J.P. Laurel Avenue • Unit 313, 3/F, SM Mall of Davao, Quimpo Boulevard, Davao City • Unit M4-136 Limketkai Mall, Lapasan Road, Cagayan de Oro City • 2163 Main Mall, 2nd Level, SM Mall of Asia, SM Central Business Park, Pasay City • Unit 13, Ground Floor, Annapolis Carpark Bldg., Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, Metro Manila • 277B, 2nd Level SM City Cebu, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City • 3rd Level, SM City Iloilo, Iloilo City

The Marines were fed to the dogs

ON TARGE

Ramon Tulfo

WHO ORDERED THOSE MArines to attack the Abu Sayyaf camp in Basilan that resulted in the deaths of five lieutenants and 10 enlisted men?

Their mission was only to conduct surveillance on the camp and pass on their observation to the big body of troops that would make the attack.

In war, as in the workplace, there is division of labor. Their task was finished after the surveillance.

Those Marines, mostly inexperienced, were most probably ordered to attack the Abu Sayyaf lair by headquarters, practically feeding them to the dogs.

Whoever ordered them to rush the camp should be held responsible for their unnecessary deaths.

Another question: Why was there no higher-ranking officer with combat experience among them?

* * *

The military's claim that 42 Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed in Saturday's fighting doesn't hold water.

Why are there only a few bodies recovered on the enemy side, if there were any at all?

In the heat of battle, the retreating Abu Sayyaf bandits would have left their dead and carried only their wounded.

But how come there were no photographs of dead bandits?

To the military high command: Please don't insult the intelligence of the public.

Why don't you just tell us the truth about the number of casualties on the side of the Abu Sayyaf? We can forgive your bungling now and then—since most of you are incompetent, anyway—but we can't understand why you should lie to us.

* * *

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile denies there is smuggling at Port Irene in Cagayan Valley.

Perhaps the good senator has been too busy attending to his work and business in Manila to pay much attention to the goings-on at Port Irene.

Enrile should ask around first before making another denial.

* * *

Car smuggling will never be stopped at the South Harbor, Manila International Container Port and the Subic Freeport as long as a close relative of a top customs police officer brings in luxury cars through his brokerage firm.

The customs police officer should not have accepted his post out of *delicadeza*.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales may know who this officer is.

* * *

At the Subic Freeport, there is no check and balance among government agencies going after smuggled goods.

Rumors have it the reason an antismuggling official can't go full blast is that because he's madly in love with another official who's in cahoots with smugglers.

People at the Freeport say the two are living together as husband and wife although both are very much married, not to each other.

* * *

A Cabinet member, his undersecretaries and assistant secretaries seldom go to their offices, but hold office at a hotel in Quezon City, meeting with contractors for the building of farm-to-market roads. The asking price allegedly for each project is from 20 to 40 percent of the project cost, according to insider.

No wonder, one of these officials and his wife can afford to lose P1 million every night in the casinos.

* * *

I'm proud to be in the company of 99 other "Ramons" who gathered yesterday and promised to plant 100,000 trees starting Aug. 31.

The date coincides with the 100th birth anniversary of President Ramon Magsaysay.

The tree-planting will end on March 17, 2008, Magsaysay's 51st death anniversary.

I made a commitment to plant trees on top of Mt. Pinatubo (Magsaysay's ill-fated plane was named Mt. Pinatubo) along with other Ramons who are still strong enough to climb the mountain.

Saving bay a joint effort, says Atienza

By Allison W. Lopez

THOUGH HE REFUSED TO comment on the dismantling of restaurants and bars along Baywalk, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza said he was willing to work with Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim in reviving Manila Bay.

"I would expect to work with him. We cannot do it by ourselves and we cannot do it without the LGUs (local government units). Saving the bay areas, like Manila Bay and Laguna de Bay, requires the full involvement of all LGUs," he said at the Kapihan sa Manila Hotel forum yesterday.

Atienza was responsible for turning Baywalk into a strip filled with restaurants and bars. The strip has since been cleared of these establishments after Lim banned the selling of liquor in the area, saying drinking alcoholic beverages in public was prohibited under the law.

Since taking over Atienza's post, Lim has reversed many of his predecessor's projects, including reopening to motorists the "pedestrianized" portion of Rizal Avenue, Carriedo St. and the Muelle del Rio.

"I would like to give him the benefit of the doubt. I don't want to react because that was my project. I'm biased. When I shook his hand, I said I wish him all the best, and that's it. Let's first see the effect of his program," Atienza said referring to Baywalk.

He added, however, that he wants to work with Lim and Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad in rehabilitating Manila Bay to rid it of trash and make it more sustainable for fishermen.

Restoring the polluted bay waters, he added, would benefit the whole nation and not just Metro Manila since it was "a national treasure."

Shanties in Makati, Pasay demolished

A GIRL watches as personnel of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority tear down shanties in Barangay San Isidro in Makati. The MMDA said the illegal structures were among the causes of flooding in the area.

REM ZAMORA

By DJ Yap

ABOUT 60 SHANTIES AT THE boundary of Makati and Pasay cities were demolished yesterday, but some 150 others were spared and their owners given a week to pack up upon the intervention of the two local governments.

Officials said the dismantling of the shanties at Barangay 51 in Pasay and Barangays Palanan and San Isidro in Makati was in line with a campaign by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to remove obstructions along waterways.

The illegal structures were blamed for clogging water channels, resulting in massive floods that had caused major headaches to commuters and pedestrians for the past two weeks, said MMDA Sidewalk Clearing Operations Group Director Roberto Esquivel.

Hundreds of MMDA personnel began dismantling the structures at about 9 a.m. using a crane, with the residents offering only token resistance. The MMDA said the area was home to about 1,000 families.

But the demolition was stopped at noon after officials from the Makati and Pasay governments requested the MMDA to give the residents a week to collect their belongings and relocate elsewhere.

Esquivel agreed, but on the condition that there would be no more extension. About 150 to 200 of the shanties up for demolition remain standing.

Soldiers deployed to Marikina City against NPA

By Kristine L. Alave

ABOUT 80 SOLDIERS WERE DEPLOYED to three depressed urban areas in Marikina City to "preempt" the New People's Army's recruitment efforts in these places, a military official said yesterday.

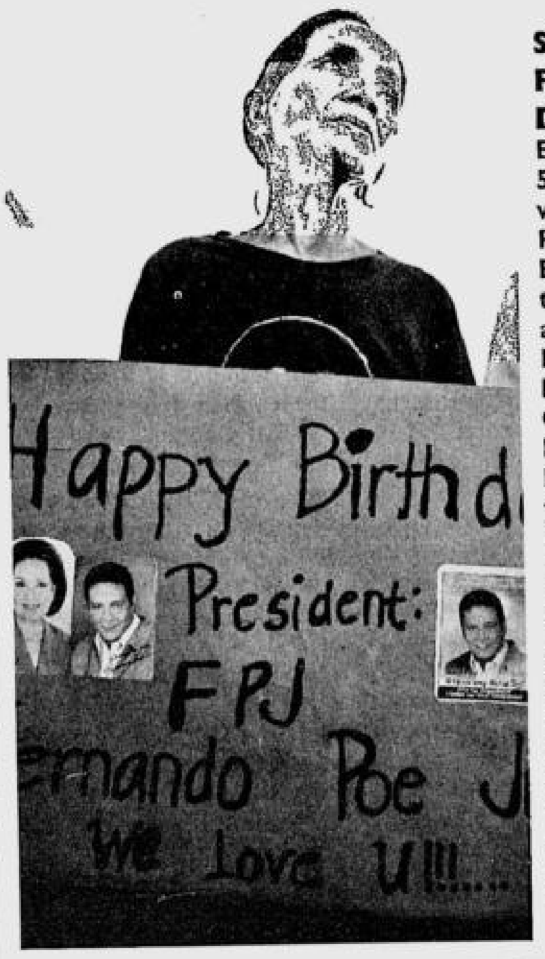
At the same time, Maj. General Benjamin Dolorfino, commander of the National Capital Region Command (NCRCom), stressed that the four military officers and 76 enlisted personnel sent to the villages of Fortune, Tumana and Parang would not "supplant" the Marikina City police in the areas.

He said the deployment of military troops to Metro Manila was part of the government's efforts to thwart the recruitment campaign of the communist organization.

According to Dolorfino, the military, which will be staying in Marikina City for "three to four months," will conduct a public awareness campaign against the communists and assist in the conduct of medical and disaster rescue operations during flash floods and evacuations.

Each barangay in Marikina City will get three teams of soldiers. Dolorfino said it is the highest deployment of troops per village as the military usually sends only one team per community.

Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando and city police chief Supt. Sotero Ramos, meanwhile, welcomed the 81 soldiers. "In Marikina, we believe that order precedes peace," Fernando said.



STILL A FAN OF DA KING Erlinda Suarez, 50, came all the way from Paombong, Bulacan, to visit the tomb of actor Fernando Poe Jr. at the Manila North Cemetery on his 68th birthday yesterday. A Mass was said at Poe's mausoleum which was attended by his widow, Susan Roces, and other opposition members. Poe died in 2004 of cerebral thrombosis.

REM ZAMORA

METROBRIEFS

'Pirates' beat up American

A 35-YEAR-OLD American man was mauled by pirated discs vendors when he refused to purchase their wares, police reported yesterday. Gavin Orzame, 35, an American citizen residing in Malayan Plaza, ADB Avenue, Pasig City, told the police on Sunday that eight vendors ganged up on him on Saturday evening in St. Francis Square, Mandaluyong City. Orzame told the police that he went to the mall to buy DVDs but a vendor and several others beat him up when he refused to buy from them. After the commotion, Orzame said he discovered that his Rolex watch and gold bracelet were missing. Police, meanwhile, arrested Alex Mamandug, 30, a cell phone dealer and Jamil Masanang, 18, a vendor, after they were identified as among the men who beat up the victim.

Kristine L. Alave

P22-M illegal software seized

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation seized P22 million worth of computers and unauthorized software during simultaneous raids conducted recently in Makati, Pasig and Quezon City. Raided were YAE Philippines, New Kanlaon Construction, JAO Builders, Gracewood Products, Eigentech Corp., MSA Production, CAD Data Source and Display Logic. NBI National Capital Region chief Ruel Lasala said they conducted the raids after Autodesk Inc. filed a complaint against the owners of the eight establishments for installing unauthorized copies of its software. Seized from the companies were 88 computers. Charges of violation of Republic Act 8293 or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines are being readied against the firms' owners

Tina G. Santos

2 more roads reopened to cars

TWO MORE roads in Quiapo, Manila were cleared of vendors yesterday as Mayor Alfredo Lim reopened them to motorists. Lim said that the clearing of Hidalgo and Villalobos Streets would help decongest traffic on the nearby streets of Palanca, Evangelista and Carriedo. Lim earlier stressed that streets were "for vehicles, not vendors" when he reopened Carriedo in Sta. Cruz several weeks ago.

Allison W. Lopez

Guidelines for Internet shop operations mulled

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A GROUP OF QUEZON CITY councilors has proposed an ordinance setting the guidelines in the operation of Internet shops to protect children, particularly students, from the negative effects of prolonged exposure to computer games and programs.

Councilors Winston Castelo, Eden Candy Medina, Jorge Banal Jr., Dorothy Delarmente, Vicente Belmonte, Ricardo Belmonte Jr., and Edcel Lagman Jr. said the Internet carries risks, including exposing minors to extreme violence and harmful materials through unsupervised online gaming or by visiting adult sites.

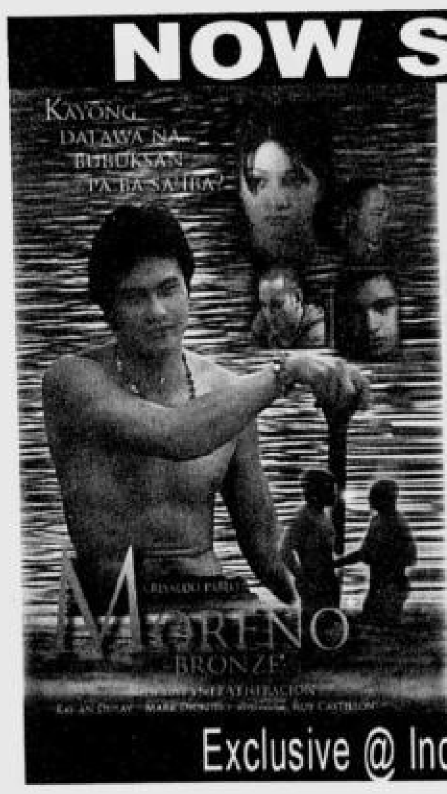
"The Internet has introduced a paradigm shift in the manner of communication and access to information. It has also changed the way people think and act, and even how they view the world," the councilors said in their proposed ordinance.

"It is high time strict guidelines and regulations are put in place for the operation of Internet shops and cafes since Quezon City recognizes the vital role of children in society," they added.

The councilors said Internet shop owners would be required to follow the additional rules, apart from securing the necessary documents for operating their business.

Additional requirements include the prohibition of the construction of private cubicles or rooms, the posting of Internet safety rules and cyber-ethics principles, the control of computer content such as nudity, sexual activity and aggressive violence, the reporting of procedures and the availability of a user's logbook in each shop.

Castelo explained that requiring Internet shops to have open cubicles for every computer would allow their employees to view the sites being visited by children.



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WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Exactly 24 years ago, at the tarmac of the former Manila International Airport, a patriot was murdered in cold blood.

After five regimes, justice has yet to be served to the man we dearly loved: Ninoy Aquino.

No amount of protest and indignation rallies can satisfy our thirst for justice. We find it shocking that a man, in front of so many people, a solitary camera, and hundreds of soldiers, can be brutally slain.

Ninoy Aquino's murder magnified our deranged society. Ninoy Aquino's death is a microcosm of injustice.

Today, we can never bear spite for the man we greatly loved even if his spirit would retract his statement: "Are Filipinos *really* worth dying for?"

Exactly 24 years ago, the former strongman Ferdinand E. Marcos and his family, wielding overwhelming military, fiscal and judicial powers, deprived Ninoy and many other familiar and unfamiliar people of justice.

After five regimes, and on the 24th death anniversary of Ninoy, the strongman's family takes a 180-degree turn as they face the institutions which they made a mockery of.

NINOY AQUINO'S DEATH IS A MICROCOSM OF INJUSTICE.

They have turned from villains to savior; from being a Pontius Pilate to the crucified; from being hunted to a hunter. The ironies and metaphors are endless.

The metamorphosis of the former strongman's family is a challenge to our national existence. Each word, under oath, is a probable insult.

Exactly 24 years ago, the words they uttered reeked of blood, injustice and inhumanity. Now the words that they utter under oath are alleged concoction of falsehood.

Quite mysteriously, our present-day leaders seem to be submissive; they allow these things to happen again today, August 21. There is no better way of commemorating the death of Ninoy. Indeed, we really have a steady supply of ironies in this country.

THE METAMORPHOSIS OF THE FORMER STRONGMAN'S FAMILY IS A CHALLENGE TO OUR NATIONAL EXISTENCE.

There can be no retribution without restitution and vice versa. The late strongman's family should prove first that they have no hand in the murder of Ninoy and other nationalists during their 20-year rule before they take their oath to tell the truth and nothing but the truth. Also, they should probably be held accountable for the economic mess we're in.

The Filipino will never forget a tyranny.

And yes, we affirm what Ninoy said: that the Filipino is still worth dying for.

Ninoy, hindi ka pa rin nag-iisa.

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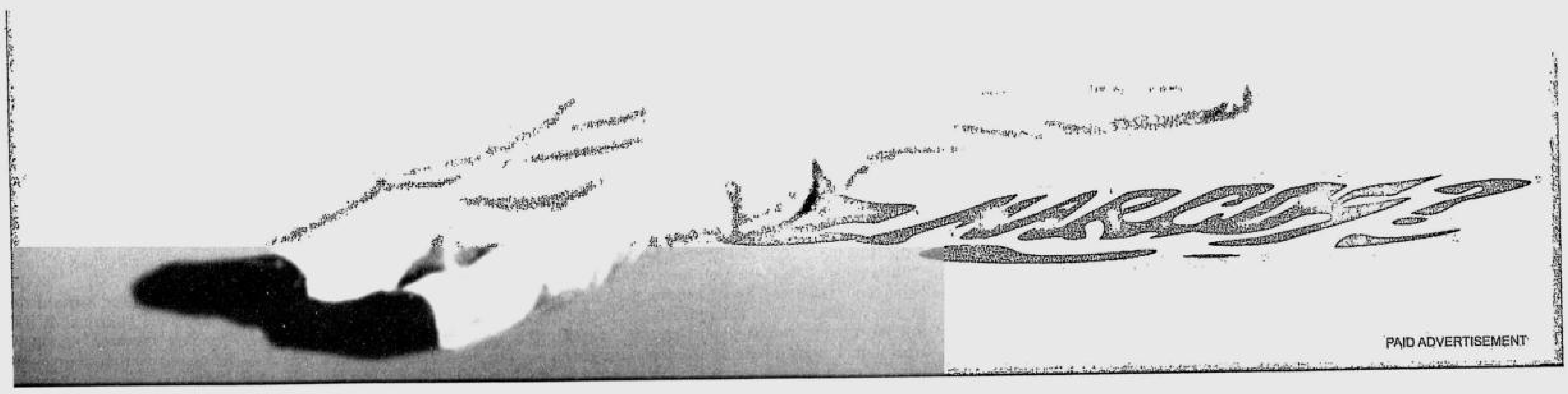

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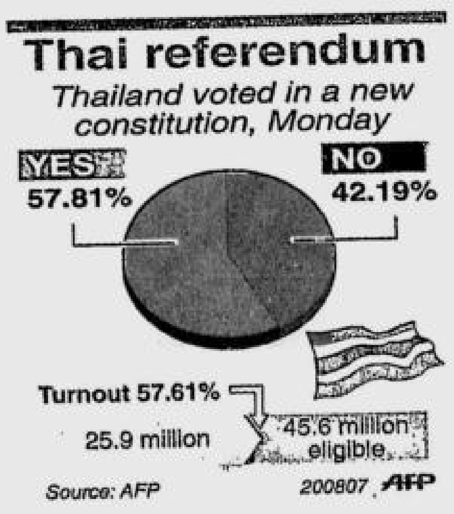
Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Thai vote seen as call for elections



BANGKOK—VOTERS IN THAILAND APPROVED A NEW constitution not because they want to support the military junta, but to send a message that they want democracy restored as soon as possible instead, analysts say.

The army-backed government won Sunday's referendum as Thais gave the junta the go-ahead for a new charter to replace the one it threw out when it seized power last year and toppled prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

But both the 58-42 percent margin of victory, according to early returns, and the turnout of 56 percent for the kingdom's first-ever national referendum were smaller than the junta had predicted last week.

Political analysts say that many Thais voted for the charter, despite concerns about its contents, in order to hold the military to its promise to hold elections and restore democracy before the end of the year.

If voters had rejected the charter, the army could have imposed a new constitution without any public consultation, which analysts said would have delayed elections and set the stage for new protests against the regime.

"By voting yes, Thai people sent a clear message to the junta that they want elections in December," said Panitan Wattanayagorn, a security analyst from Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University.

"They wanted to assure the coup group that they want democratic elections and want the situation to return to normalcy soon."

Critics accuse the junta of rolling back democracy with the new charter, which they say curtails the power of elected leaders and entrenches the military and bureaucracy.

At polling stations across Bangkok on Sunday, voters said they were fed up with the ongoing political stalemate and wanted stability.

"I was against the coup. I didn't want to see that happen but the government has done their best," said Tee Prawong, a 56-year-old fruit seller who voted for the charter.

"I want to see the elections be held as soon as possible," she said, an opinion echoed widely across the city.

Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont promised to do just that when he declared victory in the referendum, repeating his vow to hold elections later this year. *AFP*

China rescuers struggle to reach 180 miners

XINTAI, CHINA—CHINESE rescuers frantically pumped water from flooded mine shafts on Monday with little hope that around 180 miners trapped for three days might be alive and as officials revealed they knew of the danger.

GRIEF-stricken Wang Yifang, daughter of one of the miners. AFP

The disaster in the eastern coastal province of Shandong is just the latest to strike China's coal industry, the world's deadliest, with more than 2,000 miners killed in accidents over the first seven months of the year.

Underscoring China's poor industrial safety record, 14 people were killed in a spill of molten aluminum on Sunday night at a foundry in the same province.

The miners have been trapped since Friday when a burst river dike sent water rushing into the mine shafts. It was unclear if the miners would have drowned immediately or might be trapped on higher ground.

"The number one priority is to pump as much as water as possible from the mine shaft," Bu Changseng, a worker-safety expert drafted in by the government, told reporters at the site.

But only a day before the disaster, province safety officials meeting in Xintai discussed the threat of floods in coal mines and singled out the area where Friday's disaster took place, showing that officials knew of seasonal risks from heavy rains.

"Especially in areas along rivers and lakes and low-lying areas where water easily accumulates and leaks, we must set preventative measures," the report on the website of Shandong's coal mine safety bureau (www.sdcoal.gov.cn) cited deputy chief Zhang Xuechang as saying in Xintai. *Reuters*

German hostage freed in Afghanistan

KABUL—AFGHAN POLICE rescued a German aid worker in a pre-dawn swoop early Monday, but efforts to free 19 South Koreans and another German abducted more than a month ago remain deadlocked.

The interior ministry said a criminal gang motivated by money was behind the weekend kidnapping of Christina Meier in the Afghan capital Kabul.

"The motive behind the kidnapping was mainly ransom. They had demanded a big sum—about a million dollars," ministry spokesperson Zemarai Bashary told reporters.

"Initial investigations indicate that this group is a criminal gang and their main aim on this issue was to get money."

Police surrounded the house in southwest Kabul where Meier was being held and forced her captors to surrender, officials said.

Police Col. Ghulam Rasoul, who took part in the operation, said that six kidnappers were arrested, but Bashary said only four including the gang leader were in custody and being questioned.

"We located the house where she was kept. We surrounded the house and called on the kidnappers to surrender to police. They came out one by one and surrendered and then we freed the hostage. She's fine," Rasoul said.

The German foreign ministry confirmed that Meier—who was seized at gunpoint in broad daylight on Saturday at a Kabul restaurant—had been rescued and was now at the German Embassy in the capital.

Her kidnapping had stoked fears of a drawn-out hostage crisis with one of her apparent captors, his face covered, using a video released on Sunday to demand the release of jailed Afghans in exchange for her freedom.

He said the kidnappers were not Taliban, and an Afghan intelligence source who did not want to be identified said some had criminal backgrounds.

However, the hardline Islamic militia has also been insisting on a prisoner release in exchange for the Korean Christian aid workers it has been holding since July 19.

The militants killed two men in the 23-member group shortly after they were seized in insurgency-plagued south Afghanistan, but the Afghan government has repeatedly rejected the demand for a prisoner swap.

The Taliban released two female hostages a week ago after opening direct talks with South Korean officials, but 19 are still in captivity.

The Taliban and their al-Qaida backers have said abducting foreigners is a new tactic to try to force international forces out of the country. *AFP*

AN AFGHAN walks through an old city area of Ghazni province on Aug. 20. AFP

Roadside bomb kills second Iraqi governor

BAGHDAD—AN IRAQI PROVINCIAL governor was blown up by a roadside bomb on Monday in what appeared to be an escalation of a power struggle between rival Shiite factions that threatens to destabilize the country's oil-producing south.

Mohammed Ali al-Hassani, governor of Muthanna province, was on his way from the city of Rumaitha to Samawa, the provincial capital, when his convoy of nine cars was targeted by a powerful roadside bomb, provincial officials said.

One bodyguard was also killed and two others wounded.

He was the second provincial leader to be killed in two weeks.

The governor of southern Diwaniya province, a fellow member of the powerful Shiite Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council (SIIC), was blown up by a roadside bomb on Aug. 11.

SIIC and Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's political movement are uneasy bedfellows in the ruling Shiite Alliance and have 30 seats each in parliament. But outside the assembly, fighters loyal to the two parties have clashed repeatedly.

SIIC and its armed wing, the Badr Organization, are locked in a struggle with Sadr's Mehdi Army militia for control of towns and cities in Iraq's predominantly Shiite southern provinces. *Reuters*

Ex-Seoul mayor wins presidential nomination

SEOUL—LEE MYUNG-BAK, A former Seoul mayor, on Monday won the opposition Grand National Party's nomination to contest South Korea's presidential election after a bitterly contested primary.

Lee, 65, a retired construction executive nicknamed "The Bulldozer" for his forceful style, smiled broadly and shook hands with rival Park Geun-hye after the announcement to a packed hall.

"I accept this as the people's demand to revive the economy and integrate the divided country, and will achieve these without fail," he told thousands of party members chanting his name.

Current opinion polls show the conservative opposition party is in line to win the Dec. 19 election, after a decade of rule by left-leaning forces.

LEE Myung-bak AP

The GNP announced Lee won 81,084 votes compared to 78,632 for Park, who is the daughter of former President Park Chung-hee, in Sunday's primary.

The GNP, which lost the last two elections partly because opponents divided the conservative vote, had warned both candidates to close ranks behind whoever emerged as winner.

Polls have shown Lee and Park to be far ahead of prospective pro-government presidential candidates, partly because voters give low marks to President Roh Moo-hyun's economic performance.

But mindful of Roh's own upset victory in 2002, the GNP stresses the need for unity after a primary campaign marked by copious mud-slinging.

Lee was appointed chief executive officer of Hyundai Construction and Engineering at age 37, becoming part of a team of businessmen that drove the country's astonishing economic boom during the iron-fisted rule of President Park.

He left the company in 1992 to enter politics.

After being elected Seoul mayor in 2002, he won local and international praise for tearing down an elevated highway to open up a six-kilometer stream through the heart of the capital.

His key campaign pledge is even bolder: a 14 trillion won ($14.7 billion) cross-country canal to link northern and southern rivers and slash transport costs. *AFP*

CLINTON (D-NY) during a post Democratic debate rally in Des Moines, Iowa, on Aug. 19. REUTERS

Clinton: Negatives won't keep me from winning

DES MOINES, IOWA—DEMOCRATIC presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton acknowledged on Sunday that many voters do not like her, but she blamed it on years of Republican attacks and insisted she has a record of winning despite her negatives.

Clinton's remarks came as the eight candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination debated in the critical early voting state of Iowa and just days after President George W. Bush's political adviser Karl Rove said the former first lady was flawed for having high negative ratings.

Clinton and top rival, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, came under fire early in the debate at Drake University when other candidates were invited to comment on their perceived weaknesses—Clinton's high negative ratings in the polls and Obama's inexperience in foreign policy.

"I don't think Karl Rove's going to endorse me," Clinton told the audience at the debate, which was aired by ABC News' "This Week" program. "But I find it interesting he's so obsessed with me. And I think the reason is because we know how to win."

She tackled the issue of her high negative ratings head-on, saying, "The idea that you're going to escape the Republican attack machine and not have high negatives by the time they're through with you, I think, is just missing what's been going on in American politics for the last 20 years."

Polls have shown Clinton holding double-digit leads over Obama in their effort to be the Democratic candidate in the November 2008 election.

But a recent CBS News poll showed 39 percent of all voters nationwide had an unfavorable view of Clinton, while only 20 percent viewed Obama negatively. Other polls have had Clinton's negative rating even higher.

Obama, who had a narrow lead in ABC News' Iowa poll, was criticized for his recent comments on foreign policy, including saying he would meet with US rivals without preconditions and suggesting he might authorize attacks inside Pakistan without that country's permission.

"The only person that separates us from a jihadist government in Pakistan with nuclear weapons is President (Pervez) Musharraf," said Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut. "I thought it was irresponsible to engage in that kind of a suggestion here."

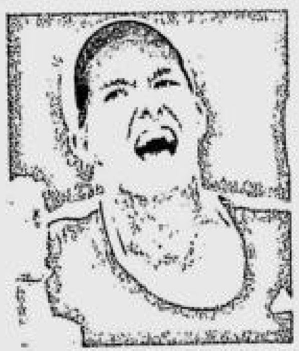
Clinton said she thought Obama was wrong in saying he was willing to meet without preconditions in his first year in office with US adversaries such as Iran.

Obama dismissed much of the criticism as political maneuvering and quipped "to prepare for this debate, I rode in the bumper cars at the state fair." But he tried to paint Clinton's criticism as outdated thinking.

"I do think that there's a substantive difference between myself and Senator Clinton when it comes to meeting with our adversaries," he added. "I think that strong countries and strong presidents meet and talk with our adversaries. We shouldn't be afraid to do so. We've tried the other way. It didn't work."

Asked about the recent turbulence in the financial markets as a result of the crisis over subprime mortgage lending, most candidates applauded the Federal Reserve for lowering interest rates for banks but called for steps to protect those facing the loss of their homes.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson called the crisis the "Katrina of the mortgage-lending industry," comparing it to the hurricane that devastated New Orleans. *Reuters*



WHAT'S INSIDE

Scrambling Henin triumph over Jankovic /A23

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Federer snares 50th trophy in Cincinnati /A23

Early bet odds favor Pacquiao

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

AT THE RATE THE INITIAL odds have been placed, one would think this is going to be a "gimme" fight for Filipino ring hero Manny Pacquiao.

For veteran bettors, however, Marco Antonio Barrera is a safe bet considering that the Oct. 6 rematch would be a showdown between two future Hall of Famers.

According to online betting site Bodog.com, Pacquiao is a negative-350 favorite to beat Barrera again. In layman's terms, a $350 bet on the Pacman would only win $100.

Barrera, meanwhile, is plus-275 underdog, which means that a $100 wager on the Mexican icon will win $275.

The difference, however, is expected to get closer as soon as Mexican money starts flowing into the betting windows.

Veteran bettors will be counting on Barrera's supposed advantage in going to training camp earlier than Pacquiao, although the Filipino's loyalists are expected to root for the Pacman owing to his demolition of Barrera the first time they met.

Rude welcome

Meanwhile, Mexican David Rodela had a rude welcome on his first day as Pacquiao's sparmate in Cebu City.

This after Rodela, who was the first to arrive on Sunday to help Pacquiao prepare for Barrera, was stopped in his track in the third round of the sparring session yesterday at the Rex "Wakee" Salud Gym here.

Trainer Buboy Fernandez said that Rodela absorbed a big Pacquiao punch in the body during the sparring session but managed to fight on after a short rest.

"*Tinamaan talaga siya* (Rodela indeed reeled from a punch)," said Fernandez. "*Malakas din 'yun*. (That was a big punch)."

Pacquiao ran in the morning at the IT Park located in front of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

"OK *na* OK *ang* stamina *niya* at this point," said Fernandez. "*Di ako nagwo*-worry *sa* stamina *talaga*."

Pacquiao then joined newly minted WBO bantamweight king Gerry Peñalosa for a lunch meeting with the media yesterday at the Marriott Hotel here.

Another sparmate, Jose Armando Sta. Cruz, was scheduled to arrive yesterday and should be available to spar with Pacquiao tomorrow.

MANNY Pacquiao (right) punishes Mexican sparmate David Rodela yesterday at the Salud Gym in Cebu City. CDN PHOTO/TONEE DESPOJO

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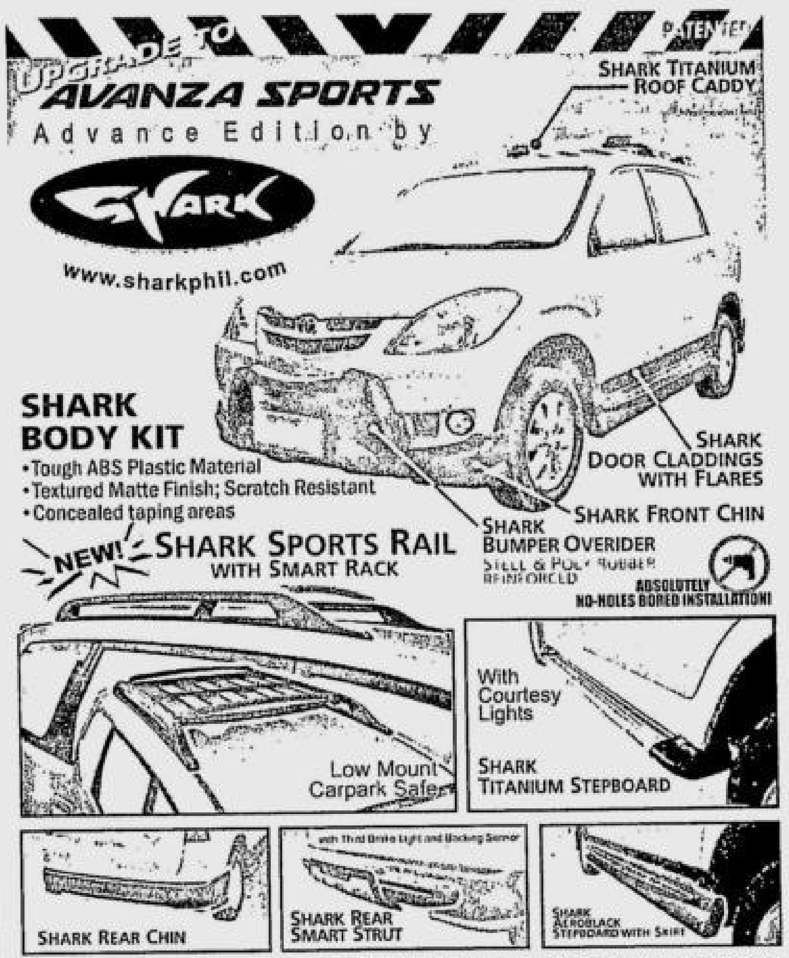

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LEE Vann Corteza in file photo.

Corteza richer by P370,000

FILIPINO LEE VANN CORTEZA SUBdued American Louie Ulrich, 13-7, in the finals to pocket the top prize of $8,000 (about P368,000) yesterday in the IX Turning Stone 9-Ball Tournament at the Turning Stone and Casino in Verona, New York.

The 28-year-old Corteza, top gun of Negros Billiard Stable, cruised to a 12-2 lead, but a scratch on the break let Ulrich back.

Ulrich won five straight racks to narrow the gap at 12-7. Ulrich's break came up dry, however, and Corteza ran the last rack for the title.

The second place effort was worth $5,300 for Ulrich. Another Filipino, Dennis Orcollo, wound up third and got $3,800.

Earlier, Corteza trounced Redgie Cutler, 9-6, Holden Chin, 9-1, Mike Dechaine, 9-6, Tony Chohan, 9-3, and Tony Robles, 9-2, before losing to Orcollo, 9-6, in the sixth round of the winners' bracket.

Relegated to the losers' bracket, Corteza beat Niels Feijen of the Netherlands, 9-3, Ralf Souquet of Germany, 9-5, and got back at Orcollo, 9-2, to arrange a titular showdown with the then undefeated Ulrich from San Diego, California.

The 28-year-old Orcollo bowed to Ulrich, 9-6, in the hot seat matches.

Other Filipinos who competed were current double world champion Ronato Alcano, Jose "Amang" Parica, Al Lapena and Mhet Vergarra.

Corteza, who hails from Davao City, is fresh off a runner-up finish in the $50,000 winner-take all International Challenge of Champion in Uncasville, Connecticut, last Aug. 10-12. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Belasco boosts Welcoat ceiling

Dragons send Cabatu to Aces

By Musong R. Castillo

WELCOAT OBTAINED VETERAN NIC BElasco from Alaska in exchange for youthful enforcer Jun-Jun Cabatu as the Dragons pursued their campaign to achieve formidable status with a solid frontline.

A proven winner all throughout his career that started in 1999 with Pop Cola, the 6-foot-7 Belasco now becomes the new spiritual leader of the Dragons, who won but seven games in their first two PBA tournaments last season.

And his arrival now completes the potent 1-2-3 frontline for Welcoat, which snagged Fil-American Joe Devance first overall in the Draft on Sunday to join potential star Jay-R Reyes.

"It was a good decision for us," said Welcoat coach Leo Austria, who praised Belasco's professionalism and expressed surprise that the former No. 2 pick welcomed his transfer.

"At first I thought he would be in shock," Austria added. "But he said that he is excited to play for us. To play for a new team."

Welcoat will be Belasco's fourth team since being picked second behind Andy Seigle in the 1999 Draft by defunct Pop Cola.

Alaska, on the other hand, freed some very important space in its salary cap by letting go of Belasco, a decision that was obviously hard to arrive at since the franchise values loyalty more than anything else.

But the Aces would be saving more than P2.4 million in salary cap space for the next season, giving them the leeway to deal with draft selections Ken Bono and burly JR Quinahan, the sixth and seventh choices in the Draft, respectively.

"We really like Nic because of his winning attitude and work ethic," said Welcoat co-owner Raymund Yu. "Imagine the kind of influence he could give our young players."

During the Draft—a few minutes after snagging Devance—Austria said that making the playoffs would be an achievement.

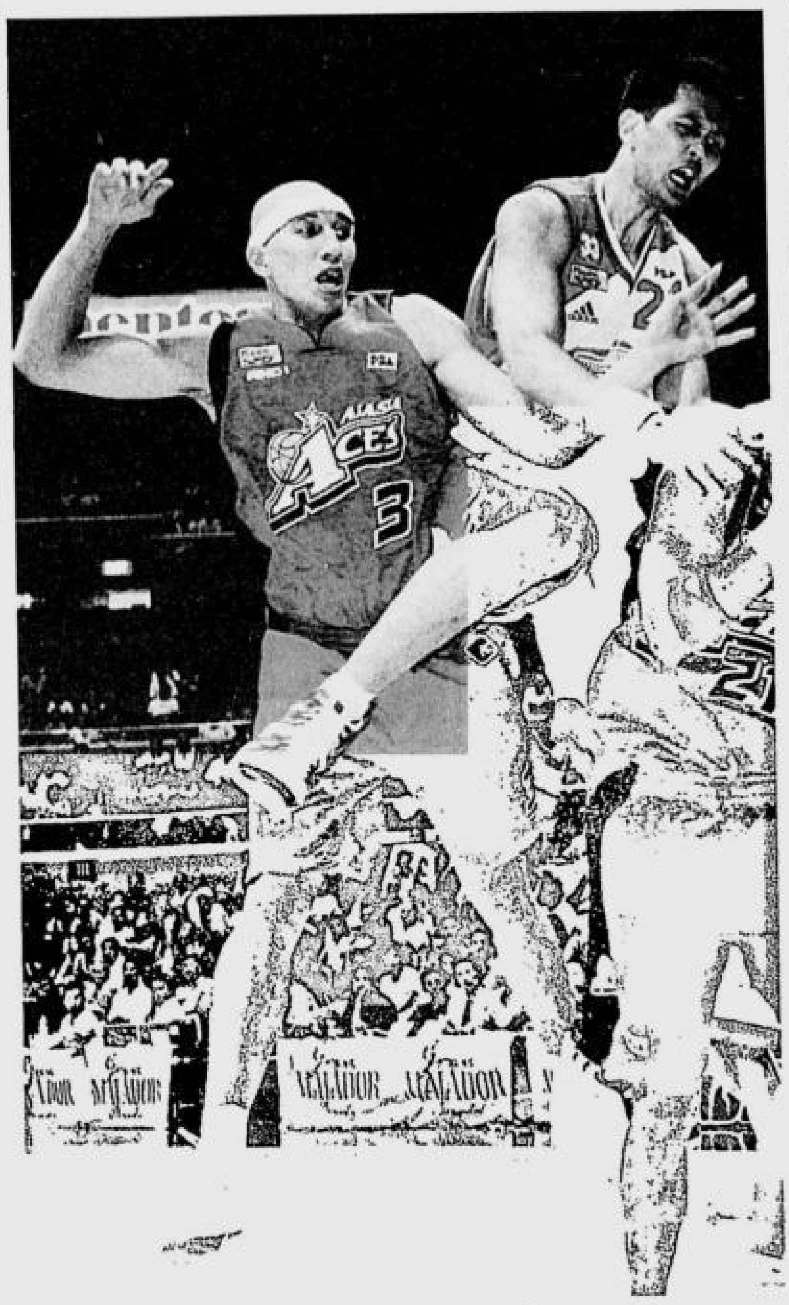
"Nic's arrival certainly boosted our stock," Austria said. "Definitely, we would be aspiring to make the playoffs and we have additional dependable manpower to achieve it."

Yu also denied reports that his team was set to deal Devance to San Miguel for No. 2 pick Samigue Eman and a couple of other veteran players, one of them the streak-shooting Christian Calaguio or Lordy Tugade.

"No way," Yu said. "I don't know where that rumor came from. But if ever it was true, we won't accept it."

Austria also picked left-handed swingman Ryan Arana as the 12th overall choice.

The next PBA season comes off the wraps Oct. 14 with the Philippine Cup.



MISSING LINK? Nic Belasco (left) is expected to strengthen sophomore ballclub Welcoat's frontline. INQUIRER PHOTO / AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Streaking UE Warriors keep title focus

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	9	0
La Salle	6	3
FEU	5	4
UST	5	4
Ateneo	4	4
NU	4	4
Adamson	1	7
UP	0	8

GAMES THURSDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—NU vs UE (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

ONLY GAME NUMBERS CONCERN THE University of the East Warriors.

"We never talked about achieving any record," said coach Dindo Pumaren after the Warriors matched the 9-0 start of the Jerry Codiñera-led UE squad in the 1986 season.

"We just go by the numbers. For Thursday, we're just going for [win] number 10. We don't even talk about a sweep. We only focus on our next game."

But with the way Pumaren's wards have thrashed their opponents, the merciless Warriors looked capable of marching straight to the championship round.

A 14-0 sweep will propel the Warriors to the Finals outright, the incentive given to a team that wins all its elimination round games.

Power forward Narciso Llagas turned up as the surprise performer last Sunday as the Warriors humbled anew the defending champion University of Santo Tomas Tigers, 99-82, for a sure slot in the Final Four.

Next for the Warriors are the National U Bulldogs, the Adamson Falcons, the University of the Philippines Maroons, the La Salle Green Archers and the Far Eastern Tamaraws—teams they routed in the first round.

In women's action, the Ateneo Lady Eagles and the UP Lady Maroons secured at least Final Four playoff berths after nipping their respective foes over the weekend.

The Lady Eagles edged the FEU Lady Tamaraws with a 56-53 decision, while the Lady Maroons repulsed the La Salle Lady Archers, 56-48, to keep their share of the lead at 7-1.

Defending champion UST Tigresses held on to third with a 6-2 slate following a 66-59 trouncing of the UE Amazons. Adamson claimed solo fourth with a 52-39 rout of the winless National U for a 4-4 record.

SEAG roster to be slashed a third time

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE CONTINGENT TO THE Thailand Southeast Asian Games in December will have to be downsized a third time.

Citing tight budget, the SEAG Task Force yesterday announced it would meet this week to find ways to reduce the list of candidates, which is now down to 609 from an original roster of 739 athletes, for the biennial event

"Budget is the biggest factor, not just to fly the delegation to the SEAG but more so to train and equip it," said Task Force member Mark Joseph.

Task Force members from the Philippine Sports Commission said that the "budget is very tight" and that there might be a third slash of the number of athletes after the Aug. 30 deadline given to the NSAs.

Nonetheless, the Task Force believed that the country will be sending a tough bunch of athletes, who will be defending the overall title they won in Manila two years ago.

"If you study the statistics and trend toward an Olympic year, we will see many athletes peaking," said Joseph. "Our athletes are definitely better, more seasoned and tougher now than in 2003 and 2005."

The current list of 609 athletes includes players from team sports like futsal, polo, basketball, baseball and softball.

The Philippines has already submitted a certain number of slots to the organizers, according to Joseph, so it is only a matter of filling in the name of the qualifier.

At least 12 NSAs are still completing their SEAG qualifying and a few more have yet to submit their equipment needs.

ARDINA: Special invitation

Tandem of European pro stints for Ardina

By Jong Arcano

ALREADY A DOMINANT FORCE IN the amateur world at her young age, Dottie Ardina is bringing her sweet-swinging act to the professional ranks—in Europe.

The 13-year-old Ardina has accepted an invitation to play in two events in the Ladies European Tour, marking a new phase in her budding career.

Ardina will fly to Europe today with her mother and professional Cassius Casas, one of the assistant coaches in the ICTSI stable where Dottie belongs.

Dottie's father Ed told the INQUIRER yesterday that the three will fly straight to Oslo, Norway, for the SAS Masters, which has given her a special exempt status for the event which starts Friday at the Losby Golf Club.

According to Ardina, Dottie will also see action in the FinnAir Masters the following week at the Helsinki Golf Club in Tali, Finland.

Should Ardina make it to Oslo in time, she will become the second Filipino amateur to play in the Ladies Euro Tour. The semi-retired Mary Grace Estuesta actively campaigned there several years ago.

"We felt that this is one chance we don't want to pass up because of the experience it will give to Dottie," said the elder Ardina in Filipino.

The Ardinas had spent the last few days working on a power drive to achieve yardage.

"Dottie's known to be a sweet swinger and we tried to max out the distance that she can reach for this trip," Ardina said.

He also told his daughter to expect the worst since they will be playing without enough familiarization rounds at the venue and may even be suffering from jet lag.

From Europe, Dottie will fly straight to Florida where she will attend the Pendleton Academy as a junior together with Cyna Rodriguez and Mia Piccio.

Villanuevas shine in Eagle Ridge golf

RUDY VILLANUEVA REPEATED AS Senior A division champion, although in a much tighter fashion, in the August tournament for members of the giant Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club presented by Maruman/Transview in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Villanueva netted a 58 on a gross of 81 under intermittent rains spawned by typhoon Egay, beating Rosendo Cruz by just stroke in the 55-64 age bracket. He won last month's tourney by four shots over Moon Soo Young.

It was a day of Villanuevas as Hector Villanueva, no relation to Rudy, topped Class D with a 67, finishing two shots over Anthony Cervantes.

Korean expatriates flexed their might in the 18-hole event with Koo Jae Min winning Class A, Choi Sung Jin topping Class B, Soo Nam Lee bagging the Senior B title and Woo Ri Bang ruling the Ladies A category.

The Class C award went to Percival Santos while Imelda Agustin nipped Peony Nepomuceno for the Ladies B plum (77-78).

Hector Villanueva actually made it two of three after topping his class in the June edition.

SPORTSWATCH

Apocalypse Manila leads RP chessers 1-2-3 finish

APOCALYPSE MANILA EMERGED OVERall champion in the 27th Astro Merdeka Rapid Team Chess Championships dominated by Philippine entries Sunday at the Cititel Midvalley Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

Composed of IM Ronald Bancod, NMs Rolando Nolte and Emmanuel Seandor, Christopher Castellano and Albert Rivera, Apocalypse Manila posted 28 points and 16 match points to edge Laguna-Evertel and Quezon City for the crown.

Laguna-Evertel, composed of IM-candidate Nouri Hamed, IM Richard Bitoon, NM Rhobel Legaspi, NM Jerry Nodado and head coach Dr. Alfredo Paez, tallied 26.5 points and 15 match points for runner-up honors in the event that drew 50 teams.

Quezon City, composed of IM Julio Catalino Sadorra, IM Barlo Nadera, Allan Cantonjos and Roel Abelgas, notched 26.5 points and 14 match points to complete the Filipinos' 1-2-3 finish.

"We did very well considering the strength of the opposition," said Apocalypse Manila skipper Bancod in Filipino.

Bhayangkara B of Indonesia took fourth place with 24 points and 12 match points. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Bardon surrenders OPBF flyweight crown in Japan

FILIPINO JOJO BARDON LOST HIS OPBF flyweight title on a split decision verdict to Japan's Masaharu Naganawa at the Industrial Hall in Gifu, Japan, on Sunday.

The fight was a rematch for the two fighters' first encounter won by Bardon, also via split decision, last March in Nagoya.

Naganawa this time won on two scorecards—119-108 and 116-113—and lost on the third, 112-115.

Bardon fought without his manager Rex "Wakee" Salud, who is busy tending to superstar Manny Pacquiao and American trainer Freddie Roach in Cebu. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Asuela, Cajeras top Shell tilt

BACOLOD'S ELLAN ASUELA HELD MARvin Ting to a draw then nipped the West Negros College bet in the tiebreak to capture the juniors crown in the Shell National Youth Active Chess Western Visayas leg at the SM City in Iloilo City over the weekend.

Asuela, from Domingo Lacson National High School, finished the seven-round Swiss tournament with 6.5 points.

Ting beat Karl Badilla and Mary Grace Tambasen before halving the point with Asuela in the final round to settle for second place. Rolly Parondo Jr. beat Tambasen in the seventh round to finish third.

WNC's Jerich Cajeras, on the other hand, racked up four more wins to sweep the kiddies event with seven points and tow Paolo Bersamina and Jan Francis Mirano to the Manila finals in October.

LPC stagfest stakes P1.5M

ABOUT P1.5 MILLION IN GUARANTEED prize awaits the winners in the LPC 7-Stag Derby slated this Thursday and Saturday at the Las Piñas Coliseum.

The champion will also receive a trophy from Sagupaan Complexor 3000.

Coliseum manager Alex Tobias said participants should be ready by the derby's 11 a.m. start. At least 130 fights will be held on Thursday.

Now on its 14th year, the annual derby has become the opening salvo of stagfighting year and attracts leading gamefowl breeders from all over the country.

Host Mayor Nene Aguilar will donate derby proceeds to Las Piñas City's Clean and Green program.

'Showdown' lures big guns

TOPNOTCH GAMEFOWL BREEDERS HAVE signed up for the upcoming Pitgames Showdown 6-Stag Derby slated Sept. 1, 3 and 5 at the San Juan Coliseum.

The bidders include Sonny Lagon, Boy Marzo, Ricoy Palmares, Fred Katigbak, Pepito Ngo, William Go, Bobby Doromal, William Chia, Mayor Buddy Dunca, Emil Chua, Louie Cua and Romy Castro.

Hosts Danny Ty and Manny Berbano said the derby, backed by Progressive Poultry Supply, Lakpue Drug Inc., Excellence Gamefowl Specialists and Thunderbird, offers a guaranteed prize of P1.5 million. Each champion will also get a Keyang brush cutter.

For inquiries, call 0917-8277484, 725-5369 or 0928-4131389.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Way To Go Heza (6), Memory of Fire (5), Princess Tokai (1), Showgirl (2)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Eye Candy (5), Music King (2), Sunline (4), Super Wind (1)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Glorious Quest (3), Fold Your Arms (1), Dark Cape (2), Red Gown (6)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Military Might (1), Saintly Path (2), So Gorgeous (5), Rome N Fire (4)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Five O'Clock (4), Queen Banana (5), Tiger Raffy (2), Goldsphere (1)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Gold Collar (3), Blue Iris (1), Empire Lady (5), Wild Orphan (2)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Common Goal (6), Truly Impressive (2), Bird In Hand (4), King View (9), Golden Lance (8)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Scud Missile (3), Lord Eigene (2), Reporter (5), Friendly Fire/Tower of Class (9), Paminsanminsan (6), Manila's Snile (1)

JUSTINE Henin reacts after winning a game point against Jelena Jankovic. REUTERS

Scrambling Henin triumph over Jankovic

TORONTO—JUSTINE HENIN'S gritty 7-6, 7-5 victory over Jelena Jankovic at the Toronto Cup on Sunday proved that the world number one is well prepared for her US Open title bid.

But the Toronto tournament also revealed a fragile shoulder that could prevent the Belgian from walking away with the year's final grand slam.

Bothered by a sore right shoulder that flared up during her semifinal win over China's Yan Zi, Henin told Tennis Canada officials after Saturday's match that there was only 50/50 chance she would play in the final.

Henin's warning was so serious that tournament organisers hastily arranged an exhibition between Jankovic and Russian Nadia Petrova.

Vigorous treatment on the sore joint allowed the six-time Grand Slam winner to take to the court, however, and although the gutsy Belgian grimaced throughout the match she survived the two hour, 18 minute contest.

"Last night there was almost no chance I would play, I was really concerned my shoulder was really inflamed," Henin told reporters. "But the trainers, they did a great job. They helped me really to play today..

"I was feeling 100 percent during the match but it's going to be sore for a few days.

"I'll be fine for the Open, but I was really concerned about playing on it today." Despite Henin's assurances, question marks about her shoulder are sure to remain.

One of the sport's most tenacious competitors, few would question Henin's fighting spirit but with just eight days to the start of the year's final grand slam the 25-year-old Belgian's fitness is sure to be monitored closely.

"I'm going to stay in Toronto until Thursday and then go to New York," Henin said. "So I'm going to take some time off... maybe Niagara Falls or something.

"Just take some time off and not think too much about tennis for one or two days. Then start to practise probably on Tuesday, and get ready for the Open." *Reuters*

Federer snares 50th trophy in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, OHIO—RECORD-setting Roger Federer takes aim at a fourth US Open title after winning the 50th trophy of his career 6-1, 6-4 over James Blake on Sunday at the Cincinnati Masters.

The Swiss heads to New York for the last major of the season starting on August 27 quietly confident of further domination on the hardcourts.

Little more than a month after lifting a record-equalling fifth consecutive Wimbledon, the 26-year-old is in the chase for more runaway success.

"I definitely played my best," said Federer, 45-6 this season with five trophys and a 7-0 record over Blake. "I had to play my best to beat James.

"It was a great week. I was very happy and I'm obviously very excited going into the US Open." Federer's 11 career Grand Slam titles are three shy of the all-time record of 14 set by Pete Sampras.

Federer, who won his first title at Milan in 2001, will be seeking his third Grand Slam crown of the year having won the Australian Open in January and his fifth Wimbledon crown in a row last month.

Federer stands 12-1 in finals played in US venues, including three US Open crowns.

"Everything felt good until I ran into Roger," Blake said, who came in with wins in 16 of his previous 20 matches. "Fifty titles is pretty good." Federer, so relaxed that he hit up in the morning with former player and current American Davis Cup coach Patrick McEnroe after scratching around for a partner, likes his chances heading to Flushing Meadows.

"The good thing is that I know how to win it, I know how to prepare. I have the right frame of mind.

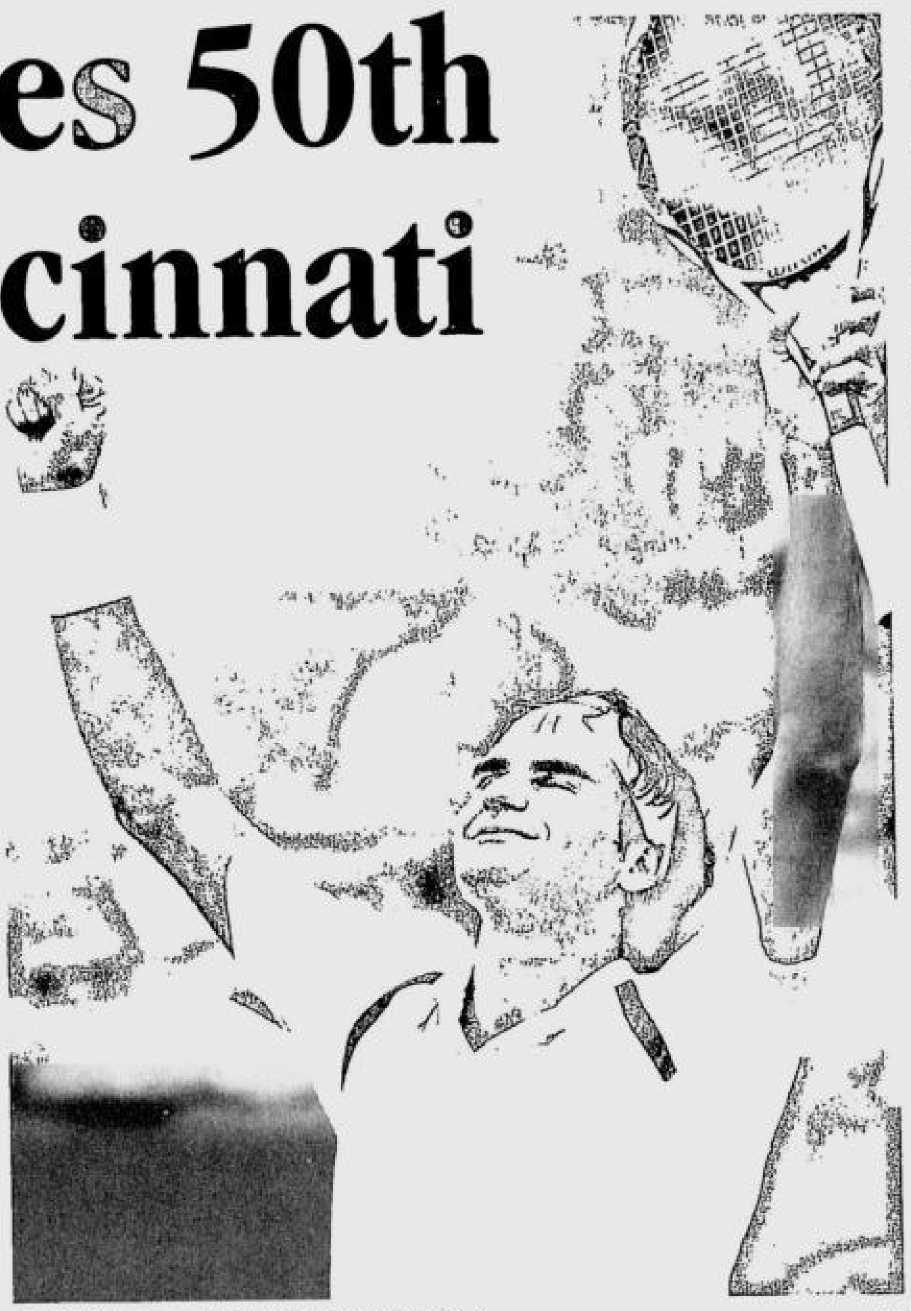
"I took a month off after Wimbledon. I had hoped to win Montreal (last week, where he lost the final to Novak Djokovic) but I played a good Cincinnati.

"I'm confident going into the Open, I want to try and keep the rhythm and go match by match.

"You need to get ready mentally for best-of-five-set matches.

The Swiss won his second Cincinnati trophy in three years after beating Andy Roddick in 2005.

It was a year and a week since Federer lifted his career 40th crown through a 2006 victory in Toronto. He began his run with a first title in Milan in February, 2001 as a teenager. *AFP*



ROGER Federer: I definitely played my best. AFP

Beijing puts 50,000 bikes for Olympics

BEIJING—BEIJING IS TO PUT 50,000 bicycles up for hire at tourist and sports venues next year as part of a drive to make the Chinese capital "greener" for the Olympics Games, state media reported Monday.

New bikes will be available at 230 outlets outside Olympic venues, hotels, shopping districts and other locations, Xinhua news agency said.

Heavily polluted Beijing has pledged to stage an environmentally friendly Olympics and is working to improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion for the August 8-24 2008 Games.

A Beijing firm is already running pilot projects offering 5,000 bikes for rent at 30 downtown locations which will be expanded to more then 200 during the Games, Xinhua said.

For a 400 yuan (50 dollars) deposit and a fee of 20 yuan a day, users can pick up and drop off the bikes at any of the locations.

Meanwhile Monday is the final day of a four-day trial in which 1.3 million cars have been banned from the roads to enable officials to assess how such a measure implemented during the Games would affect pollution.

Even so a stubborn smog has enveloped the city for the past week, and the traffic ban has had little apparent effect on air quality. *AFP*

McNulty tops Tradition by five strokes

MARK McNULTY AP

SUNRIVER, OREGON—Mark McNulty coolly shot a 68 to win The Tradition by five strokes on Sunday, his first victory in a golf major.

McNulty didn't falter until the end, when he double-bogeyed the 18th hole at Crosswater Golf Club. When he missed a nearly 4-foot putt, he recalled words of advice from Gary Player.

"Gary Player always said, 'Mark, as long as you win by one, you've won,'" McNulty said.

McNulty finished the Champions Tour event with a 16-under 272. His co-leader going into the final round, David Edwards, shot a 73 to finish at 11 under.

The day started out rainy in central Oregon, but later in the final round there was mostly brilliant sunshine. Winds were gusty and temperatures were on the chilly side, ranging from the 50s (10s C) in the morning to the low 60s (mid-teens C) in the afternoon.

McNulty, who had six birdies on the final day to go along with his double-bogey, has had lower back problems and had not finished in the top 10 at a tournament this season.

He splashed on to the Champions Tour in 2004 and was named rookie of the year. With Sunday's victory, he has six total victories on the tour for players 50 and older.

In-form Ochoa notches 2nd straight victory

EDMONTON, CANADA—MEXICO's Lorena Ochoa fired a two-under-par 69 Sunday to finish three strokes ahead of Paula Creamer in the final round of the Canadian Open.

The world's top-ranked player, Ochoa had four birdies and two bogeys on Sunday at the Royal Mayfair Country Club course.

"It was just a great day today. It wasn't easy," Ochoa said. "I didn't feel very comfortable in the morning. I wasn't in a rhythm on the front nine, and Paula made a couple birdies to narrow the difference.

"And then we made the turn, and then I started feeling strong."

Fresh off winning her first major title, the British Open, Ochoa finished at 16-under 268.

Creamer had five birdies and two bogeys for a 68 to take second at 13-under 271.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin closed out with a 73 and wound up at 287, 19 shots off Ochoa.

Ochoa picked up 337,500 dollars for her fifth win of the season.

She raised her season winnings total to 2.63 million dollars, tops on the LPGA Tour.

Birdies at Nos. three and six got Ochoa off to a fast start and she pretty much cruised home from there.

She bogeyed and Creamer birdied the 17th hole, but that made little difference in the outcome save for the margin of the victory.

Shi Hyun Ahn shot a 66 to finish third at 10-under. Brittany Lang (67) and Laura Diaz (72) followed at nine-under.

Alena Sharp was the top Canadian finisher, grabbing a share of 10th at nine-under after a 69.

Defending champion Cristie Kerr, who won the US Women's Open earlier this season for her first major, stumbled to a 75 to tie for 50th at one-over. *AFP*

LORENA Ochoa: It wasn't easy. REUTERS

MINNESOTA Twins' Johan Santana reacts at the end of the eighth inning after collecting his 17th strikeout Sunday against the Texas Rangers. AP

Santana smashes strikeout mark

NEW YORK—JOHAN SANTANA broke the Minnesota Twins' single-game strikeout record with 17 in eight innings to pitch his team to a 1-0 victory over the Texas Rangers in Minneapolis on Sunday.

The defending Cy Young Award winner won his 13th game of the season while shattering the old club mark of 15, set four times and most recently by Bert Blyleven in 1986.

Sunday's performance came after the Twins honored the 20th anniversary of the 1987 championship team but the day belonged to Santana.

Santana (13-9) gave up two hits—both to Sammy Sosa—and did not walk a batter in recording the most strikeouts by a Major League pitcher since Milwaukee's Ben Sheets fanned 18 in May 2004.

For Santana, the performance continued his record as an August master—he is 20-2 with a 1.85 ERA in August starts since 2003.

The Indians failed to hold a 10th-inning lead and wound up losing 4-3 to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays,

The surging New York Yankees, once 14 games behind the Boston Red Sox in the East, shaved the deficit to just four with a 9-3 win over the Detroit Tigers in New York as Chien-Ming Wang won his 14th. The win was Joe Torre's 1,149th as Yankee manager.

Left-hander Joe Saunders raised his record to 7-1 by beating the Red Sox 3-1 in Boston. Saunders pitched 7 2/3 strong innings as the first-place teams split a four-game series.

The Seattle Mariners kept their half-game lead over the Yankees in the wild card with an 11-5 rout of the Chicago White Sox. *Reuters*

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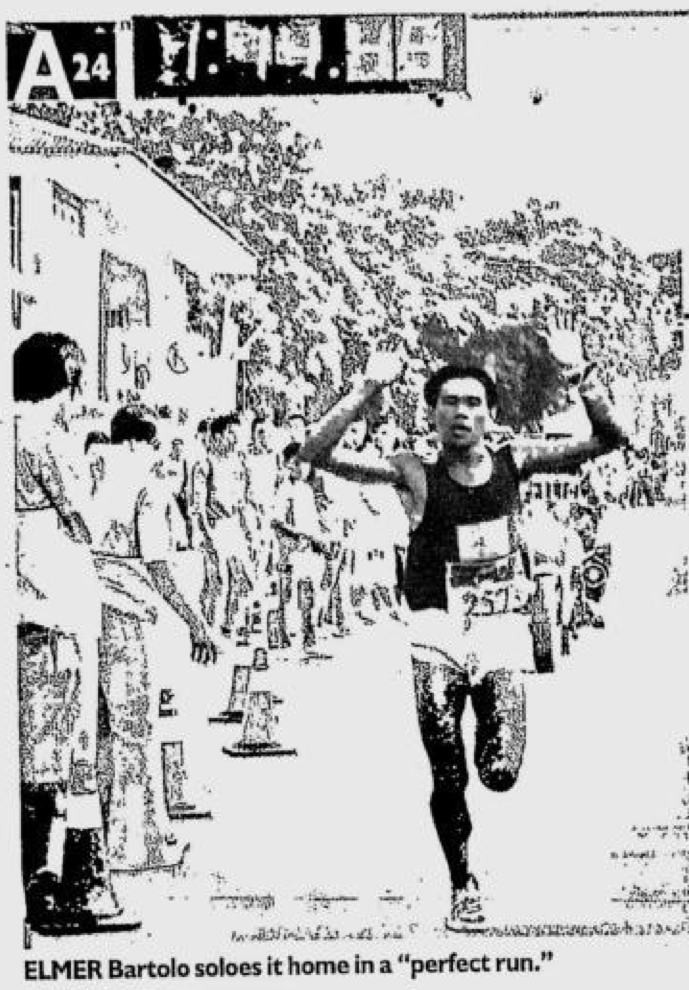

ELMER Bartolo soloes it home in a "perfect run."

MILO MARATHON

Bartolo, Gonzales Dumaguete champs

DUMAGUETE—ELMER BARTOLO OF Davao used his superior skills to easily rule the Dumaguete leg of the 31st National Milo Marathon that started and ended in front of city hall here on Sunday.

The 24-year-old third-year Criminology student at University of Mindanao in Davao City broke away from a seven-man lead pack in the last five kilometers to win the 21K regional race in one hour, 14 minutes and 47 seconds.

"Perfect run, no stomach and leg cramps," Bartolo, the son of a vegetable vendor, said.

He won P10,000 aside from leading Dumaguete's six qualifiers to the 42-km grand finals where he will pit his running prowess against other provincial winners.

Jeson Agravante, an 18-year-old graduate from Silay National High School, came in second in 1:15.28 and pocketed P7,000 while Rodel Arancana from Pagadian City, wound up third in 1:15.57 for P5,000.

The two also made it to the grand finals.

Agravante said he could have beaten Bartolo if he did not suffer stomach cramps in the last 9 km, but Arancana admitted Bartolo ran a superior race.

Guia Marie Gonzales outdistanced French runner Katia Sorin to win the women's race in 1:48.40.

Sorin, 33, who arrived in the Philippines last March as member of a humanitarian organization, clocked 1:50.09, with Mareels Ramirez checking in third in 2:03.44.

Gonzales won P10,000, Sorin P7,000 and Ramirez P5,000. All three also made it to the grand finals.

Close to 4,000 runners competed in the 11th stop of the country's longest running footrace supervised by race director Rudy Biscocho.

Roxas City hosts next week's elimination race before the Milo series proceeds to Bicol for the Legazpi and Naga legs in September.

Blu Girls settle old SEAG score

Overwhelm Thais for win No. 2

JAKARTA—SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES champion Philippines showed Thailand who's the region's strongest yesterday with an emphatic 7-1 victory, its second straight in the Ninth Asian Women's Softball Championship at the Senayan Sports Complex.

Playing with fire in their eyes, the Blu Girls blasted two Thai pitchers for nine hits, taking a 4-1 lead after four innings before Luvelyn Maganda capped the onslaught with a two-run double in the seventh and final frame.

Starting pitcher Cloiene Muyco held the Thais to four hits before Syrel Ramos took over and retired the side in 1-2-3 fashion in the last three innings.

The Blu Girls, who won the gold medal despite a defeat to the Thais in the 2005 Manila SEAG, were to face reigning champion Japan at 6 p.m. (7 p.m. in Manila) also yesterday.

The Japanese showed their mettle by drubbing South Korea, 17-1, in their first game.

Belen Asok had three hits in four times at bat while driving in a run for the Blu Girls, who debuted with a 16-0 crushing of Hong Kong on Sunday. Nimfa Baral was two-for-three while scoring two runs and Karin Aribal went two-for-four with two RBIs.

Thai head coach Thono-Ye opted to start with No. 2 hurler Waraporn Konyeon instead of 2005 Blu Girls tormentor Prasimee Mantolumpra in what proved to be a disastrous move as the Blu Girls quickly took a 2-0 lead behind a two-run double by Diane Macasu.

By the time Mantolumpra swung into action in the fifth, the Blu Girls, who need at least a third place finish to qualify for the 2009 World Championship, had a solid 4-1 advantage.

"We have reached our first target here by beating Thailand," said head coach Ana Santiago in Filipino.

The Blu Girls are assured of third place in Group A in the two-group, 10-team field, but they need one more win in their next two elimination-round games to gain the semifinals.

"*Nakaganti rin* (We finally had our revenge)," said Baral, a member of that RP squad that lost to the Thais for the first time ever in any Asian and Southeast Asian level.

China matched the Philippines' clean 2-0 card with a 22-0 rout of hapless Malaysia, which suffered its second straight loss after another lopsided 15-0 setback at the hands of host Indonesia, which is coached by former Filipino pitching hero Hernando Posadas.

In other early results, South Korea nipped Thailand, 9-7; China blanked Singapore, 7-0; and Chinese Taipei dumped Indonesia, 5-1.

GOLDEN MERMAID Tiara Beboney Tudio of Koronadal City shows off the 10 gold medals she scooped in the swimming competitions of the Philippine Olympic Festival's Mindanao qualifying at the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Center in Cagayan de Oro City. Beboney was among three swimmers who won at least 10 golds each in the games that drew to a close on Sunday. Zamboanga City won the overall title. INQUIRER PHOTO/RAFFY LERMA

4-game bill starts Cusa caging

GAMES FRIDAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
11 a.m.—MLQU vs Feati
12:30 p.m.—Trinity vs CCP
2 p.m.—MMC vs UAP
3:30 p.m.—PCCr vs De Ocampo

FOUR MATCHES KICK OFF THE 13th season of the Colleges and Universities Sports Association (Cusa) basketball tournament this Friday at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

Defending champion Manuel L. Quezon University battles dangerous Feati University in the curtain-raiser of the tournament which opens at 10 a.m. with a ceremony featuring PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad and veteran coach Norman Black as guests.

Trinidad and Black are expected to make the ceremonial toss, along with officials of the 10 Cusa teams.

JC Intal, PBA team Air21's latest addition, has also been invited to attend the opening rites.

MLQU beat Philippine Maritime Institute in their best-of-three series to capture last year's championship.

Big Monzones rally pays off in Shell tilt

FORMER CADET 60 CHAMPION Ken Monzones bounced back with a come-from-behind victory in the ROK Seniors race in the fifth leg of the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series at the Enchanted Kingdom recently.

GUTSY DRIVING: Ken Monzones

Monzones bagged the title after clocking 11 minutes and 58.755 seconds, 0.622 seconds ahead of 02Kart teammate and ROK Seniors frontrunner Mike Casimiro.

The Enchanted Kingdom leg drew out the best from the 18-year-old Monzones, whose talent and determination were pushed to the limit. He was unable to start in Race 1 and thus had to start at the tailend of the 13-man pack of the combined race.

Showing gutsy driving, Ken passed one driver after another and moved up to eighth in the combined race, just behind Alessandra Madrigal.

In the final race, the son of noted architect Neil Monzones of Sto. Tomas, Batangas, pulled a big dive in the sixth lap and moved ahead of Casimiro for the victory.

"It was tougher racing in the narrow and tricky conditions at the Enchanted Kingdom," said Monzones, who is backed by Natmo Asia, Arabella Construction, Drueco Auto Supply, Normanworks Custom Paintshop and Casimiro Development Corp. (www.casimirodev.com).

"It was even tougher starting from the back. But I never gave up and I'm glad my effort paid off."

Politics rears its ugly head again

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

EVEN NOW, POLITICS REMAINS THE bane of sports.

Just recently, the International Baseball Federation canceled this year's World Junior Baseball Championship because host country Venezuela refused to issue visas to Taiwanese players for political reasons.

According to the Associated Press, John Ostermeyer, president of the federation, stripped Venezuela of the right to host the tournament that was to open in Caracas on Friday, saying that "Venezuela violated the spirit of fair competition championed by the Olympics."

* * *

That incident reminded me of a similar fiasco in 1962, when the late President Diosdado Macapagal refused to grant entry visas to players and officials of the Yugoslav team that was about to compete in the 4th World Basketball Championship which the Philippines was hosting.

As a result, the tournament was canceled, the country was suspended and the Basketball Association of the Philippines was fined $2,000 by the international basketball federation, forcing then BAP president Sen. Ambrosio Padilla and secretary general Dionisio "Chito" Calvo to make a hasty trip to the Fiba headquarters in Munich in a bid to save the event. But the best they could get from Fiba was an authority to stage an invitational meet instead.

The Philippines finally earned the right to stage the World Basketball Championship in 1978, with air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum in Cubao and the refurbished Rizal Coliseum as playing venues, generations away from the old Luna Park Stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where the tournament started in 1950.

* * *

In 1954, the Philippines achieved its historic third-place finish in the second edition of the championship in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Six Olympians—the fabled Carlos Loyzaga, spitfire Tony Genato, Florentino Bautista, Pons Saldaña and Mariano Tolentino (Helsinki 1952) and Lauro Mumar (London 1948)—and six standouts from the commercial league (Manila Industrial Commercial Athletic Association) and school organizations (NCAA and UAAP)—Ben Francisco of PAL, Rafael Barredo of San Miguel-San Beda College, Bayani Amador of FEU, Francisco Rabat of Ateneo and Ramon Manulat and Nap Flores of UST—composed the selection that was touted as the strongest team ever assembled for any one international meet.

The coach was the late Herminio "Herr" Silva, then the dean of Philippine basketball coaches and one of the most successful bench strategists of his time.

According to basketball old-timers, Silva spent long hours cooking up unheard of tactics, some of which helped revolutionize the sport. In fact, Silva was a very sick man when the national team left for Brazil.

* * *

DESPITE the passage of time, the contributions to Philippine sports of the late President Manuel L. Quezon continued to be felt and enjoyed by the Filipino people. (Last Sunday, Aug. 19, the nation marked the 129th birth anniversary of Quezon.)

The diminutive Quezon stood 10 feet tall when he was elected the first Filipino president of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, forerunner of the Philippine Olympic Committee, succeeding American Governor General W. Cameron Forbes in 1916. Quezon held that exalted post until 1935.

It was also during Quezon's administration that the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex—then the envy of all Asia—was constructed and completed in 1936. In 1924, Quezon sent the first ever Filipino athlete to the Olympic Games, held in Paris. Sprinter David Nepomuceno was accompanied by team official Dr. Remigio Ylanan.

Despite all these, officials continue to ignore Quezon's contributions to local sports.

Tiger Cubs thwart Xavier spikers

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO Tomas Tiger Cubs rallied from seven points down in the deciding set to turn back Xavier, 25-20, 19-25, 25-23, Sunday in the Petron Treats Boys V-League at the San Lorenzo Sports Complex in QC.

John Davis Santamaria, Dominico Lucindo and Job Bogos combined for 40 points to open their bid on a high note.

Santamaria keyed the Tiger Cubs' late rush with six of his game-high 13 sets in the third set.

Lucindo made the most of Santamaria's assists, converting them into seven kills.

In the final match, St. Anthony School rolled to its second straight win with a 25-17, 25-19 thumping of St. Mary's College. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Ikeda leads Malaysian Jr Open by 4

IKEDA: Six birdies

CHIHIRO IKEDA TURNED IN A solid four-under-par 68 to open a four-stroke lead over Thailand's Jaruporn Palakawong at the start of the Malaysian Junior Open at the Saujana Golf and Country Club in Malaysia yesterday.

Ikeda, who won the Jakarta Junior World Championship in Indonesia last June, gunned down six birdies against a double bogey to register the day's lone sub-par card.

Ikeda went three under after seven holes at the backside, where she started. But she drove out of bounds on the 18th and made the turn at 35 before birdieing Nos. 5, 6 and 8.

But while Ikeda had a fine start, her ICTSI teammates Cyna Rodriguez, Mia Piccio, Bambee dela Paz and Louise Manalo groped for form.

Rodriguez carded a one-over par 73, Piccio shot a 74, Dela Paz had a 76 while Manalo struggled to a 79.

Rodriguez's 73 was good enough for third place while Piccio shared fourth with local bet Kelly Tan as the international field struggled under tough conditions.

In men's play, Marcel Puyat and Brent Sumampong both shot 75s to trail Korean Kim Dong-hyeon and two others by five shots.

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GMA orders sale of energy assets rushed

Privatization seen to net as much as $7B this year

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CAN EXPECT BETWEEN $5 BILlion and $7 billion from the privatization of key energy sector assets this year, including the generation facilities of National Power Corp., the National Transmission Corp. concession, and the remaining 40-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp.

In a briefing following yesterday's energy sector conference with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said two key focus areas of the government in the energy sector now was the acceleration of its privatization program and the reduction of power rates.

For this year alone, he said Ms Arroyo gave strict orders to fasttrack the energy sector privatization by ensuring the completion of the sale of some big-ticket Napocor assets, the transfer of the Transco concession to the private sector and the complete privatization of PNOC-EDC.

He said that Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. had been tasked to complete the sale of the Calaca coal-fired power plant, the Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant package, and the Palinpinon and Tiwi-Makban geothermal facilities within 2007.

The privatization of the 25-year Transco concession as well as the sale of the government's remaining 40-percent stake in PNOC-EDC should also take place as scheduled before the year ends, he said.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said that from the sale of the PNOC-EDC stake alone, the government could generate between P32 billion and P36 billion.

This amount would be used to finance the government's remaining expenditure

GMA/B3

ENERGY Secretary Angelo Reyes (right) escorts President Macapagal-Arroyo to the Department of Energy audio-visual conference room for the Energy Command Conference.

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BSP sees market relief from Fed cut

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS sees the fresh cut in the US Federal Reserve's discount rate providing some relief to the local financial markets bludgeoned by a global turmoil caused by the worsening US credit crunch.

"The Fed's action can help restore liquidity in the financial system and ease market pressures. A favorable outcome will tend to provide relief to emerging markets, including the Philippines," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement Sunday night.

To calm jittery global financial markets, the US central bank lowered its key discount rate by half a percentage point to 5.75 percent but kept its Fed funds rate, the more significant interest rate benchmark, at 5.25 percent.

The Fed funds rate sets the level that banks charge one another for short-term loans while the discount rate covers only the rate at which the Fed lends out to banks.

"The Fed's innovative move, as I understand it, is meant to address US banks' need for liquidity while not losing sight of the Fed's primary focus of inflation," Tetangco said.

"I believe this will help bring back order in the US markets and hopefully, this will alleviate some of the risk aversion that may have filtered into own markets," he said.

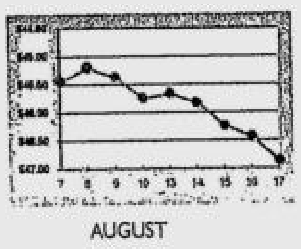
The Fed's action has already spurred a rally on Wall Street last Friday. Asian stocks with shares listed on the New York Stock Exchange likewise gained from the initiative. Local financial markets were closed yesterday as the country commemorated the death of Benigno Aquino Jr.

"When the external factors settle down, the local market as well as international investors will again look at fundamentals, which in our case continued to be sound," Tetangco said.

BSP/B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P46.85 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 17, 2007

¥115.14 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 20, 2007

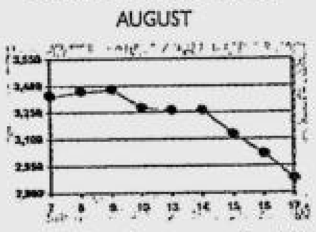
GOLD: $657.90-658.40

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 20, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

AUGUST



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Remittances from OFWs seen to remain healthy

By Michelle V. Remo

INVESTMENT BANK UBS HAS SHRUGGED off concerns that the slowdown in remittances from overseas Filipino workers in June could indicate a downtrend in the dollar inflows.

UBS agreed that OFW remittances played a substantial role in sustaining the Philippines' economic growth as these helped boost household consumption, but said it did not believe the slower growth in June was indicative of a declining trend.

In its latest paper on the Philippine economy titled "Bringing Home the Pesos," the Swiss-based investment bank noted that OFWs were scattered all over the world and aggregate remittances therefore did not depend on the economic stability of one region alone.

The slowdown in remittances in June was perceived to be a result partly of the volatile economy of the United States, which is currently facing a crisis in its home loan market due to defaults by high-risk borrowers.

OFW remittances reached $1.12 billion in June, representing a one-percent growth from a year ago. The growth paled in comparison with the more than 30-percent growth in April, UBS noted.

But on a cumulative basis, OFW remittances for the first seven months of the year stood at $7.03 billion, still 18 percent up year-on-year.

Using 2004 data, UBS said there were an estimated 2.7 million Filipinos working in the United States out of the estimated 11 million to 12 million OFWs. The investment bank said the remaining OFWs were scattered all over the world, making inflows hardly affected by volatility in one country alone.

The bank also said that many OFWs in the United States were employed in permanent jobs rather than those that offer only contractual employment.

"This means that the remittance stream is protected against localized economic downturns. While migrant workers might be impacted more than most, it is clear that only a fraction of employed Filipinos might actually lose their jobs," UBS said.

The bank also said that no US recession in the last 30 years had led to a significant drop in the number of employed Filipinos.

UBS added that since the money sent home by OFWs to their families were usually for essential consumption like education, it was unlikely for these workers to easily reduce their remittances.

"We believe that most of the remittance flows represent income to support essential consumption (such as education) or essential investment (such as family home). As such, there is arguably pressure to remit a certain peso level of income home in the face of exchange rate movements, which could encourage stability in domestic spending growth," the bank said.

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PSE pushes early passage of credit information bill

Steering away from subprime woes of US

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange (PSE) has appealed for urgent help from lawmakers to stabilize the local stock market in the wake of turbulent global financial markets by approving a proposed law designed to lessen credit risks and loan defaults.

PSE president Francis Lim said in a statement that the enactment of the proposed Credit Information System Act (Cisa) would help the country steer away from the subprime-lending problem now plaguing the United States.

Global stock markets have suffered from massive selloffs as US lenders' increasing loan defaults among subprime borrowers spooked investors.

The selling frenzy has wiped out the record-breaking gains this year of the PSE, the main barometer of local stock price movements, the PSE noted.

"We in the PSE remain confident that, notwithstanding the PSE's setback, our stock market still stands on solid macroeconomic ground," Lim said.

"Our listed companies remain profitable; interest rates, along with inflation rates, remain stable; while the country's economic growth forecasts look attainable. So we have no reason to doubt the strong fundamentals supporting our stock market," Lim said.

"But we need Cisa just to make sure our financial system can count on an additional layer of support as buffer, if global repercussions from the US subprime lending problem were to linger," Lim said. The proposed Cisa, authored by Sen. Edgardo Angara, is now pending in the Senate.

Subprime loans represent borrowings of persons with blemished or limited credit histories. The loans, which carry higher interest rates, often expose the lenders to higher credit risks.

The US stock market started to suffer late last month from massive selloffs due to concerns over the subprime mortgage market following the collapse of big US hedge funds with heavy investments in doubtful subprime mortgages. The collapse of the hedge funds prompted major credit-rating agencies to downgrade subprime mortgage securities.

"Let me stress that our financial market does not face a risk similar to what is confronting our US counterpart," Lim said. "Nevertheless, the proposed Cisa will lessen the likelihood of such loan defaults by making the credit investigation process less tedious, and less costly, while at the same time, increasing the accuracy of credit information to a reliable level.

Lim said that gathering accurate information about a borrower lessens the likelihood of loan default.

Cisa will create a Credit Information Corp., which will set the standards for credit reporting operations. The Cisa's goal is to improve the availability and cost of credit to borrowers while greatly reducing the lender's credit risk, resulting in a more stable and consistent financial system.

DHL sees 10-12% market growth

By Riza T. Olchondra

DHL EXPRESS (PHILIPPINES) CORP., THE local arm of the world's leading express and logistics company and a subsidiary of German conglomerate Deutsche Post, sees a 10- to 12-percent growth in the logistics market.

"The economy is growing at about 5 to 6 percent, a little faster than before. This helped the logistics market expand a bit more as well, from 9 to 11 percent in previous years," DHL country manager Lawrence P. Llamzon told reporters.

Llamzon said market growth was driven by a good overall economy and a booming outsourcing industry.

As for DHL's prospects, Llamzon said the company was working to post at least 13-percent growth for the year.

"A company always has to grow ahead of the market in order to stay viable and competitive. So we are definitely targeting more than 12 percent," he said. "DHL has about 40-percent market share in the Philippines and in Asia, which makes us number one in the domestic and regional logistics markets. We intend to keep it that way."

Asked how DHL plans to post 13-percent growth or better, Llamzon that his company was grooming new growth channels and was putting up accessible retail outlets or service points to boost its services.

DHL has also put up eight DHL Service-point outlets in Metro Manila and will soon branch out to other cities nationwide.

Century Properties allots ₱5B for Makati project

PROPERTY DEVELOPER CENtury Properties Group is spending about P5 billion for its residential project dubbed Gramercy Residences at the five-hectare site of the former International School in Makati.

Century Properties managing director and chief operating officer John Victor Antonio said estimated revenues from the 1,000 unit luxury residences were estimated at P6 billion.

The project was launched a month ago.

The Gramercy Residences will be the first tower to rise at the group's five-hectare township dubbed Century City.

Gramercy takes its name from Manhattan's ultra-exclusive Gramercy Park, a private, fenced-in private park in New York City's most prestigious of neighborhoods, accessible only to the well-heeled residents of the buildings in the area who are assigned keys. It is one of the last-remaining private parks in the United States.

Century Properties said it was the exclusivity, the history and the central characteristics of Gramercy Park in New York that inspired the first urban icon set to rise in Century City.

The Gramercy Residences will feature six kinds of unique interiors in flat and loft types, INQUIRER earlier reported.

There will be one-, two- and three-bedroom units and lofts available while ownership starts from around P2.5 million.

For the past 21 years, Century Properties pioneered projects like the currently rising high-rise condominium South of Market at the Fort; the 40-story Grand Soho Makati condominium along Buendia Ave.; Soho Central, touted as the first transportation-oriented development with its direct link to the MRT train station at the corner of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard, and Canyon Ranch, a wifi-ready residential community in Cavite. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

BPO training center opens in Cebu

By Ronnel W. Domingo

HUMAN RESOURCES FIRM BERKELEY Systems Management announced that it has opened a new call center training arm in Cebu City to address workforce needs of business process outsourcing firms in the city amid efforts to position Cebu as a regional information technology hub.

Edward S. Mendez, BSM president and chief executive, said in a statement that Berkeley Institute was established primarily to increase the employability of Cebu City residents by providing them with the appropriate skills that meet the standards of the BPO sector.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, regions outside Metro Manila were becoming attractive for offshore e-services as a result of improved infrastructure and abundance of IT-capable manpower.

The BPO sector employed 244,675 in 2006 and is projected to be providing about a million jobs in 2010.

Mendez said that Berkeley has partnered with five major international call center firms operating in Cebu to ensure that graduates who passed the 60-hour curriculum get hired quickly.

He said that so far, 263 have graduated from Berkeley Institute, 234 of whom have been hired by different call center companies in Cebu City.

"The training we provide is based on the competencies and standards set by our call center partners," Mendez said, adding that the training primarily focuses on improving the English communication skills of potential call center agents.

The training covers English language enhancement, customer service, American accent, communication and culture, and typing. Others include advanced courses on information technology and sales and telemarketing.

Participants are taught how to "neutralize" their accents, review grammar and pronunciation, and are given interview tips for their job application.

Mendez said the program was open to those who have finished at least two years of college and are computer literate.

"Unknown to many, the call center industry is nondiscriminating," he said. "Applicants are likely to find employment in centers who accept agents regardless of their educational attainment, religion, cultural background, race and age."

CURRENCIES

August 20, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.744934	1.000000	46.5980
Japan	Yen	0.006515	0.008746	0.4075
United Kingdom	Pound	1.477503	1.983400	92.4225
Hongkong	Dollar	0.095273	0.127894	5.9596
Switzerland	Franc	0.612208	0.821828	38.2955
Canada	Dollar	0.691868	0.928764	43.2785
Singapore	Dollar	0.485647	0.651933	30.3788
Australia	Dollar	0.584767	0.784991	36.5790
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.976059	2.652661	123.6087
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198628	0.266638	12.4248
Brunei	Dollar	0.484070	0.649815	30.2801
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000079	0.000106	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022816	0.030628	1.4272
UAE	Dirham	0.202852	0.272309	12.6891
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.342400	62.5532
Korea	Won	0.000787	0.001057	0.0493
China	Yuan**	0.097966	0.131510	6.1281
Argentina	Peso	0.235367	0.315956	14.7229
Brazil	Real	0.354899	0.476417	22.2001
Denmark	Kroner	0.134379	0.180391	8.4059
India	Rupee	0.018086	0.024278	1.1313
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212656	0.285470	13.3023
Mexico	New Peso	0.066473	0.089234	4.1581
New Zealand	Dollar	0.506104	0.679394	31.6584
Norway	Kroner	0.124719	0.167423	7.8016
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012333	0.016556	0.7715
South Africa	Rand	0.099505	0.133576	6.2244
Sweden	Kroner	0.106607	0.143109	6.6686
Syria	Pound	0.014535	0.019512	0.9092
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022488	0.030188	1.4067
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000347	0.000466	0.0217

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Aug. 16, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Aug. 16, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 20, 2007)

(As of Aug. 17, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	32.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	54	55	53	53.5	2,946,900
73.5	51.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	55.5	56	53	53.5	3,879,100
935	630	China Banking Corp.	805	805	795	800	9,640
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	19,000
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.36	4,810,000
75.5	36.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	49.5	53	47.5	49	4,330,300
65.5	32.5	Philippine National Bank	42	42.5	41	42	2,566,600
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	60	60	59.5	59.5	12,100
39.57	14.35	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24.75	25.5	20.75	20.75	5,632,000
90	47	Security Bank Corp.	65	68.5	65	67	5,500
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	51	52	50.5	51	772,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
1.98	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.66	1.76	1.66	1.74	17,493,000
16.25	1.84	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	9	9.5	8.5	8.9	333,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	420,000
1,725.00	1,555.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,625.00	1,625.00	1,625.00	1,625.00	300
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.05	3.15	2.95	3	3,730,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	7,000
1,005.00	219	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	700	715	690	715	19,490
2,250.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,040.00	2,055.00	2,040.00	2,055.00	1,230
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.34	1.36	1.3	1.32	1,427,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	4	4.35	3.95	4	27,263,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.28	1,370,000
70	42	First Gen Corp.	56.5	59	56.5	57	2,053,800
92	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	70.5	71	69	69	750,400
15	8.7	Manila Water Co. Inc.	12.75	13.25	11.75	11.75	7,269,300
116	15.5	Manila Electric Co. "A"	77.5	81	73.5	74	657,800
118	24.5	Manila Electric Co. "B"	80	82.5	73	76	2,021,800
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.1	6.1	6	6	46,234,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5.1	5.1	4.45	4.65	11,681,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.1	7.4	6.7	6.7	270,000
1.9	0.92	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.08	1.14	1.06	1.06	423,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.9	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.2	587,000
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.86	1.86	391,000
61	31.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	46.5	49	44	44	2,237,500
8.5	4.6	Pancake House Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	1,000
1.96	0.78	RFM Corp.	1.44	1.48	1.38	1.38	1,686,000
4.05	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.14	2.14	2.06	2.06	365,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	60	62.5	59	59	86,900
88	60	San Miguel Corp. "B"	65	65	60	60	325,300
0.86	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.45	0.47	0.43	0.43	650,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.25	3,402,000
0.55	0.2	Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.26	0.26	250,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.57	EEI Corp.	2.85	2.9	2.65	2.85	7,422,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	9.5	9.5	9	9	1,811,000
9.2	4.5	Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.2	5.6	5	5.2	9,177,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.1	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	3.75	4	3.75	3.75	924,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.0775	Picop Resources Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.28	0.28	31,920,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.8	A. Soriano Corp.	3.1	3.1	3	3	30,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.075	0.08	0.065	0.065	47,500,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.5	0.5	12,150,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.85	6,584,000
3.35	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.95	3.35	2.6	3.35	3,094,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	123,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.2	6.2	5.8	5.8	6,137,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	66,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.95	23,642,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	1.68	1.76	1.64	1.66	2,636,000
590	341.67	Ayala Corp.	417.5	427.5	400	402.5	351,250
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	100,000
5.8	1.06	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.6	10,743,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.3	563,000
6.9	1	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.55	3.6	3.4	3.4	182,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.5	5.8	251,000
14.5	5.6	J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	16,000
11.5	0.33	Multitech Investments Corp.	3.75	4.05	2.7	3.05	3,679,000
8.2	2.7	PAL Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.3	5.3	134,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.31	0.31	9,470,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	42,000
452.5	202.36	SM Investments Corp.	325	325	302.5	312.5	308,050
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	600,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.25	0.26	17,940,000
1.06	0.54	Solid Group Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	290,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	14.25	15.5	14.25	15	13,900
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.29	2,150,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.08	1.1	1	1	1,471,000
8.9	6	Anchor Land Holdings, Inc	6	6.2	6	6.2	13,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.61	0.67	0.57	0.57	1,680,000
19.25	10.83	Ayala Land Inc.	13.75	14	13	13.25	17,936,100
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.1	1.12	1	1	5,871,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,770,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.34	0.34	1,640,000
0.99	0.45	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.66	0.67	30,370,000
0.47	0.047	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.185	0.2	0.16	0.16	20,020,000
1.48	0.4	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.99	1	0.93	0.93	6,320,000
2.44	1.07	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.32	1.38	97,537,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.25	0.26	0.23	0.23	720,000
0.5	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.5	0.55	0.46	0.46	1,490,000
4.4	1.54	Megaworld Corp.	2.85	2.9	2.7	2.75	93,361,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	20,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.24	0.24	310,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.32	0.34	8,250,000
23	11.75	Robinson Land Corp.	15	15	14.5	14.75	4,144,800
5.9	1.37	SM Development Corp.	3.4	3.45	3.15	3.15	1,991,000
13.5	6.08	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	9.7	9.8	9.3	9.4	26,324,000
3.25	0.8	Shang Properties Inc.	2.7	2.75	2.6	2.7	850,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.46	0.47	2,610,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.215	0.215	6,530,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	4.65	4.75	4.35	4.5	7,980,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	30.5	29.5	29.5	137,200
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9	9.2	8.8	8.8	1,343,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.16	1.2	1.1	1.12	5,483,000
1,445.00	970	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,245.00	1,260.00	1,220.00	1,230.00	273,350
2,820.00	1,890.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,285.00	2,350.00	2,285.00	2,295.00	302,940
7.9	3.7	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6	6.1	5.8	6	2,749,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.17	0.17	5,250,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	1,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.2	8.3	7.6	7.7	1,521,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.027	0.027	45,600,000
29.5	7.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	14	14	13.5	13.5	5,000
2.9	1.6	Ionics Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	300,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.155	0.16	136,170,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.2	37,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.045	0.046	0.042	0.044	217,100,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	2.36	2.4	2.26	2.4	627,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	34,000
6.8	2.95	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	130,000
34.5	14.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	2,201,800
2.16	0.88	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	80,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.42	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.65	2.7	2.3	2.65	2,130,000
0.98	0.28	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.38	0.38	3,970,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.66	0.68	5,360,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.65	462,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.35	4.6	4.2	4.2	1,659,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	10	10.25	9.8	9.8	252,400
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	13	13.25	12	12	321,500
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.009	0.0095	0.0085	0.0085	138,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	3.75	3.75	3.6	3.75	132,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	5,000
21.25	7.6	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	11.5	11.75	10.25	10.5	3,858,300
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	17,000
3.1	0.33	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	1.28	1.34	1.02	1.06	155,349,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	12,280,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,400,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.019	0.019	0.017	0.018	163,400,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.02	68,500,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	9.9	9.9	7.3	7.3	2,531,000
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	378,400,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	4.85	4.95	4.4	4.5	18,121,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	25	26.5	25	26	288,100
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.7	0.7	1,660,000
1.8	0.54	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.1	1.1	1	1	6,502,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.31	1,630,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	348,100,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.019	0.019	0.017	0.017	62,600,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.015	0.016	551,400,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	791.76 DOWN	15.02	48,414,860	937,336,765.00
Industrial	3,951.80 DOWN	177.53	161,233,800	1,205,031,675.00
Holding Firms	1,593.25 DOWN	62.87	337,592,300	482,848,895.00
Property	1,310.93 DOWN	39.70	796,224,900	4,171,436,530.00
Service	1,389.63 UP	10.04	433,500,190	1,215,614,370.00
Mining & Oil	4,472.15 DOWN	304.65	1,914,173,400	376,419,400.00
All Shares Index	1,865.22 DOWN	36.64		
PSEI	2,884.34 DOWN	57.97		
		GRAND TOTALS	3,691,139,450	8,388,687,635.00

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SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

DA seeks new cropland to offset effects of dry spell

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is now scouting for an additional 50,000 to 80,000 hectares of rice land in Visayas and Mindanao to offset crop production losses in Luzon farms due to the prolonged dry spell.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said that the additional planting would augment rice production by as much as 300,000 metric tons for 2007.

Yap said that, for the rest of the year, the entire population would need about 4 million metric tons of rice, based on the daily consumption rate of 32,000 metric tons.

Yap assured that half of this amount is already accounted for by the National Food Authority, commercial sellers and households, which collectively hold 70 days worth of rice stocks.

The remaining two million metric tons of rice would be sourced this wet planting season from palay harvests in Visayas and Mindanao.

Despite the dry spell, Yap said the DA expects to harvest a substantial quantity of palay in Northern and Central Luzon, noting that only 5 percent of Nueva Ecija was affected.

Meanwhile, the provinces of La Union, Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte are experiencing rains, following last week's typhoons.

The additional planting is part of the DA's quick-turnaround planting program involving a third planting season, following the two regular ones where early-maturing seeds in fully irrigated areas were used.

In the past two weeks, Yap had inspected the major dams of Angat in Bulacan, Pantabangan in Nueva Ecija, San Roque in Pangasinan and Magat in Isabela to assess the water situation and determine the measures needed in the affected farms.

The DA has been providing seeds, shallow tube wells, irrigation pumps and other forms of emergency assistance to farmers, plus funds to irrigators' associations for the repair or rehabilitation of canals, in a bid to ease the adverse impact of the dry spell.

In Sarangani, gov't puts up P31-M post-harvest facility

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE has put up a P31-million corn post-harvest facility in Sarangani—one of three pilot areas in Region 12 where the government expects to increase corn production.

Corn is the second largest crop in Sarangani, which produces an average of 134,000 metric tons annually, according to the provincial agriculture office.

"We need more of this processing facility in the country to increase our corn produce," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said.

The facility was built through the National Agribusiness Corp. (Nabcor), a government-owned and -controlled corporation.

A counterpart fund of P5 million was provided by the provincial government.

The municipal government of Malungon, where the facility is located, donated a 4,000-square meter lot for the project.

Fifty percent of Sarangani's total 30,000-hectare corn production area is located in Malungon.

The facility can complete the process of weighing, classifying and testing, loading, cub drying, shelling, grain drying, bagging, warehousing and trading.

"It will minimize drying costs and corn damage risks and can consequently reduce losses and produce quality corn," said Mario Apurada, Nabcor operations manager for Mindanao.

Post-harvest losses of as much as 10 percent can be attributed to improper drying of corn.

"We have increased our production, but what we are targeting now is to produce quality corn not only for our local markets," Gov. Migs Dominguez told farmers.

Agriculture officials said the country needs to produce six million metric tons of corn in 2007-2008.

The DA is currently undertaking a massive corn planting program this year that would involve the use of hybrid seeds in at least 132,000 hectares of farmland all over the country.

The additional 132,000 hectares of land covered by the corn hybrid planting program will give an additional production of 384,000 metric tons coming from areas in Regions 2, 10, 12 and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Amy R. Remo

NTC rushes digital TV rules, eyes dialogue with Smart, MediaQuest

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission (NTC) sees digital TV guidelines as an urgent matter and will restart its technical working group's (TWG) deliberations tomorrow to finalize the rules, new Commissioner Ruel Canobas said.

Canobas said senior NTC officials have identified digital TV as a pressing matter.

Several telcos and broadcasting companies have expressed interest in the service.

Smart Communications Inc. and sister company MediaQuest, have jointly started testing a mobile TV service called myTV.

MediaQuest unit 360media alone will be investing $50 million in programming and other aspects of the service over the next three years.

The country's top TV networks, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and GMA Network Inc., have announced investments of P1 billion and P200 million, respectively, to be spent in phases for digital terrestrial television (DTT) services.

ABS-CBN started spending its DTT budget in research. It wants to broadcast digital programs to households, public places such as train stations, and mobile devices such as laptops.

GMA Network, on the other hand, said it only needs to phase in P200 million more in a media asset management system that will complete its ongoing conversion to digital programming, after which it will start tests. The network did not bare its budget for testing.

Aside from ABS-CBN Broadcasting, Associated Broadcasting Corp. (ABC 5), Nation Broadcasting Corp. (NBC), GV Broadcasting Corp. and Christian Era Broadcasting Corp. have asked NTC for test permits.

Just before July ended, the NTC said that companies planning to broadcast digital programs to TV sets or mobile devices cannot go commercial without the revised guidelines on digital TV programming.

Only sample broadcasts are allowed.

"Our TWG (technical working group) had formulated their initial recommendations. What triggered the review were the industry inputs we got during a public hearing," Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said.

Deputy Commissioner Jaime Fortes said the group will try to draft the final rules quickly so that the NTC's 2015 deadline for the phaseout of analog TV programming will be followed.

Sarmiento added that, "as for mobile TV broadcasts, there are test services now, and some may have the impression that these are already commercial, but they are not. They are just demos."

He was referring to the broadcasts offered by Smart Communications Inc. and sister company MediaQuest for its myTV offering.

GMA orders immediate ...

From page B1

program as well as reduce the budget deficit to a maximum level of P63 billion.

He said the Philippine National Oil Co. board was now in the process of looking for a financial adviser for the 40-percent stake sale.

While CLSA, the adviser for the sale of the initial 60-percent PNOC-EDC stake that was privatized this year and last year, could still be awarded the advisory contract, he said the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines could also make its pitch.

"We'll allow CLSA and DBP to make their presentations. (We'll make our decision) within a few days or not later than a week after the PNOC board approves the 40-percent stake sale," he said.

He said another option was for CLSA and DBP to be co-advisers for the transaction.

Reyes said there was actually an option to complete the PNOC-EDC stake sale by the first or second quarter of 2008 instead of this year, but Ms Arroyo gave specific directions to complete the sale before year's end.

"We will fix all bottlenecks to make the privatization process faster than scheduled," he said.

BSP sees market relief

From page B1

The BSP chief added that the inflation outlook in the country remained benign but reiterated that the monetary institution would continue to monitor market behavior particularly as investors reassess risks.

The London-based economics unit of American Express Bank said after Friday's discount rate cut that the US Fed would likely ease monetary further if necessary to avoid a recession but would remain cautious in its approach.

"Fear of who might be sitting on losses from subprime mortgages and the market's selloff have made lenders much more selective about placing overnight lending," Amex said in its Aug. 17 commentary.

"The cut in the US discount rate is designed to ease the funding pressures and calm the panic atmosphere of recent days which has seen big falls in stocks and high-yield currencies," it said.

Amex said the global stock market declines so far had been only 30-50 percent of the downturns during the previous financial crises of 1987 and 1998. Should the markets fall by another 20 percent, Amex said it was inevitable that the US Fed would cut its benchmark rate during the September meeting of its open market committee.

"Fears of systemic problems for financial institutions would overtake any lingering inflation worries," it said.

Markets are seen remaining choppy but in the coming weeks, Amex said tactical investors should consider positioning for a likely equities rebound.

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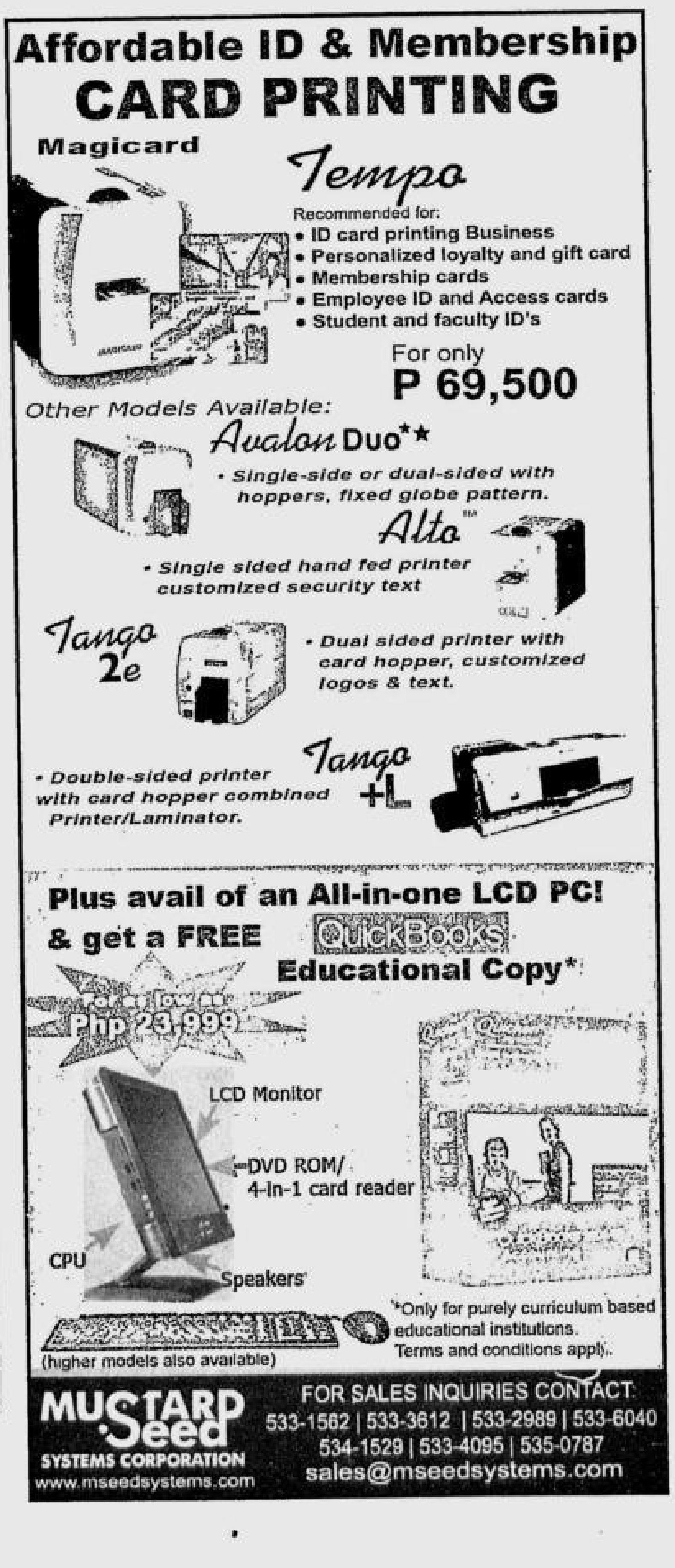

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Mainland moves to stamp out shady share trade

SHANGHAI—CHINA WILL ACT again to curb short-term speculation, insider trading and price rigging on the nation's booming stock markets, according to new rules released by the Shanghai bourse.

The rules, to be introduced on Sept. 1, give the Shanghai Stock Exchange more power to suspend trading of stocks with large price movements and force companies to disclose more information.

The Shanghai bourse may suspend trading in stocks if trading turnover spikes in such a manner that indicates there might be insider trading, according to a statement published on the exchange's website over the weekend.

Trading in stocks may be suspended for 30 minutes if they surge above 100 percent or drop 50 percent from their opening prices on days without price movement limits, typically when trading resumes after a suspension.

China's booming stock market has surged more than 80 percent this year after jumping about 130 percent in 2006.

However, the market has been very volatile, sometimes driven by hot trading in even loss-making firms, including ST stocks—special treatment stocks of firms that have reported losses for two consecutive years.

"With trading on the stock market increasingly active since the second half of last year and rising stock prices, short-term speculation, insider trading and speculation on ST stocks are also increasing," an unnamed official of the bourse was quoted as saying in the Shanghai Securities News on Monday.

In comments published Monday, Jiang Zhenghua, vice chairman of the National People's Congress, or parliament, also called for further reform of the stock market to prevent large fluctuations.

"Although China has achieved great progress in the development of the capital market, there are still problems in the quality of listed firms and regulation," Jiang was quoted as saying by the China Securities Journal.

The move is the latest in a string of regulations introduced by authorities in recent months to clean up share trading.

On July 6, authorities announced they would restrict how companies' state-held shares were floated on the nation's bourses to prevent a flood of stock from destabilizing the market. *AFP*

Wall Street hopes for smoother ride

Reassured by Fed, traders now seek out opportunities

A PEDESTRIAN glances at a digital stock price display in Tokyo. Japanese stocks rebounded Monday, tracking Wall Street where shares rose at the end of last week after the US Federal Reserve cut a key interest rate. The Nikkei 225 rose 458.80 points, or 3.00 percent, to 15,732.48 points on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Monday. AP

NEW YORK—THE START OF A NEW week on Wall Street has investors wondering if the stock market is indeed recovering after rallying in response to the Federal Reserve's intervention on Friday, or whether that advance was a one-day reprieve from weeks of losses.

And many investors will be seeking buying opportunities.

Alfred Chiaraluce is trying to think like a pro and look for bargains.

The 55-year-old bank worker from Woburn, Massachusetts, avidly follows the markets to guide him in buying stocks and bonds. Chiaraluce expects the market's volatility of the past month will prove fleeting, given Wall Street's historic cyclical tendencies.

"I'm actually thinking about buying. Next time the market dips, I've got my eye on a couple of stocks I want to pick up," he said, citing Apple Inc. as one potentially good investment.

But investing more money in the market or even making changes to a portfolio is difficult, particularly with the up-and-down ride investors have taken lately: being burned by triple-digit drops in the Dow Jones industrials and then relieved at week's end by the sense that the Fed, which lowered its discount rate Friday, was finally feeling its pain. Now, Wall Street will try to determine whether Friday's rebound, when the Dow rose about 230 points, means it is regaining its foothold or whether it is due for further upheaval.

In any case, the debate has changed. A week ago, investors were going back and forth about how widespread the fallout would be from mortgage defaults and tighter overall credit, in part because the Fed had weighed in and didn't seem alarmed. Investors will still try to calculate the fallout this week; the question now is whether the continuum of news about credit problems will have a further effect on Wall Street and what the Fed will do next about it.

Some market observers are grumbling that the Fed was easing the pain of investors who made risky bets on mortgages made to borrowers with weak credit. But others will no doubt be looking for the Fed to do more—including lowering the more important federal funds rate after nearly 14 months of leaving it unchanged.

The Fed's latest move was an acknowledgment that the concerns about exotic mortgage investments and access to credit had spilled over into the rest of the market and were hurting regular investors, not just institutional players. And that this was posing a threat to the overall economy.

The Fed in recent weeks has pumped nearly $120 billion in liquidity into the banking system, trying to lubricate a grinding credit market. The unease over subprime loans has left many banks hesitant to make loans even to borrowers with good credit, an area of concern for the Fed.

In a week with a relatively light schedule of economic reports that touch on employment, orders for durable goods and new home sales, investors will likely find themselves again swayed by market sentiment and news developments about subprime loans and the availability of credit.

With little to go on, investors will be looking to see whether the wide swings and volatility will remain a fixture of the stock market in the coming week. *AP*

China sets out to defend reputation as safe exporter

BEIJING—CHINESE STATE TELEVISION has launched a week-long series of programs dedicated to defending the country's reputation as a safe maker of global goods, pushing forward its campaign to woo back international trust.

The first program was aired Sunday on China Central Television's economic channel and featured the head of a quality watchdog criticizing the recent furor over the quality of Chinese exports as "demonizing China's products."

"Personally, I believe it is new trend in trade protectionism. Although recalls are necessary, it is unfair to decide that all products made in China are unqualified," Li Changjiang, director of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, said on the inaugural 90-minute show.

Li said his department was doing everything possible to monitor and check product quality, especially after recent recalls of millions of toys by Mattel Inc., the world's biggest toy maker, because of lead paint and small magnets.

"I'm here to tell you: have faith in made-in-China," Li told a group of foreign and Chinese executives and journalists invited to the show.

While the shows can be seen only in China, they will have interviews with Chinese producers and officials, as well as foreign buyers and chambers of commerce, CCTV said on its website. Monday's show will focus on exports, including green tea.

The programs are the latest in China's recent push to prove it is a safe manufacturer and exporter of goods amid discoveries of high levels of chemicals and toxins in Chinese products by countries around the world.

On Monday, New Zealand launched an investigation after children's clothes from China were found to contain dangerous levels of formaldehyde.

The government ordered the probe after scientists testing clothes for TV3's "Target" consumer watchdog program discovered formaldehyde concentrations up to 900 times above the safe level in woolen and cotton clothes.

The chemical gives a permanent press effect to clothes and is also used as an embalming fluid. It can cause problems ranging from skin rashes to cancer.

The television station says it will not release details of brand names or importers ahead of the show's airing on Tuesday. *AP*

HSBC says it is in talks to buy S. Korea's KEB

SEOUL/HONG KONG—HSBC HOLdings Plc said on Monday it was in talks to buy a majority stake in Korea Exchange Bank (KEB), valued at $4.5 billion and held by Lone Star.

The news sent shares of Korea's fifth-largest lender higher.

The sale process has dragged on amid a protracted legal dispute between Dallas-based private equity fund Lone Star, which holds 51 percent of KEB, and South Korean authorities.

The legal disputes forced Lone Star to cancel a $7.3-billion deal last year to sell KEB to Kookmin Bank, South Korea's top lender.

Singapore's DBS had held talks with Lone Star for a possible purchase, but ended negotiations, hinting at legal issues.

KEB and Lone Star declined to comment.

Foreign banks keen to enter South Korea may find that acquisitions might be the only option left to them, given the South Korean government's reluctance to allow new entrants into the crowded banking sector.

Citigroup and Standard Chartered became major players through acquisitions of domestic rivals, which HSBC had also attempted to buy.

"HSBC does need a bigger network for its South Korean business," said Han Jeong-tae, an analyst at Hana Daetoo Securities.

Another analyst said the reported deal was highly likely to happen because the London-based bank would be regarded as a preferred buyer by the South Korean government after previous KEB suitor DBS broke off talks in June.

"HSBC already has been doing banking business domestically, and seems to have a high possibility to win government approval," Goodmorning Shinhan Securities' banking analyst Hong Jin-pyo said in a note sent to clients on Monday.

Shares in KEB rose 6.5 percent to 13,850 won by 0233 GMT, against the wider market's gain of 4.6 percent.

But Hana Daetoo's Han said South Korean authorities may prefer local bidders over HSBC.

"If KEB is sold to HSBC, it will mark a third major Korean bank bought by foreign players. The regulator won't like it very much." *Reuters*

Indon, Japanese companies to build $2-B gas refinery

JAKARTA—INDONESIAN ENERGY companies Pertamina and Medco Energi Internasional, along with Japan's Mitsubishi Corp, are to begin building a liquefied natural gas refinery next year, the companies said Monday.

Indonesia is energy-hungry Japan's biggest liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplier.

Tokyo has been seeking to secure its supplies from Jakarta, which has warned it cannot guarantee rolling over contracts expiring in 2010-11 due to growing domestic demand.

The Donggi-Senoro refinery on eastern Sulawesi island is expected to cost $2.01 billion and will have capacity to refine two million tons of LNG per year, the energy and mineral resource ministry said in a statement.

The refinery is expected to start commercial operations in 2010 and will use reserves from the Senoro field operated by Medco's unit, Medco EP, and from other fields in the Matindok block run by Pertamina EP.

LNG from the refinery will be shipped to Mitsubishi Corp in Japan.

Mitsubishi holds a 60-percent stake in the project, while Medco and Pertamina each have a 20-percent interest.

The refinery project was among $4 billion worth of energy projects inaugurated Monday by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. *AFP*

Macquarie restructures, gets A$8B in new loans

SYDNEY—AUSTRALIA'S TOP investment bank Macquarie Bank Ltd. said it secured A$8 billion ($6.4 billion) in new debt funding as part of a planned restructuring that will make it easier to raise cash to grow its nonbanking businesses.

Shareholders will vote on Oct. 25 to establish a new listed company housing the present Macquarie Bank and nonbank subsidiaries, allowing the group to leverage its nonbanking company balance sheet and provide significant capacity for further investments.

Macquarie shares jumped 7.7 percent to A$69.71, rallying in line with other Australian financial stocks after the US Federal Reserve cut a key US bank lending rate on Friday.

Still, Macquarie is down about 30 percent from its all-time peak on May 17 on worries about its exposure to US credit problems.

Macquarie, which manages about A$200 billion worth of assets globally, has seen its overseas income outstrip domestic revenues as it chased more toll roads, airports and utilities.

The rationale for the restructure is to allow the group's nonbanking businesses to continue their growth trajectory without the prohibitive capital constraints they are currently governed by.

It said on Monday it secured commitments for the A$8 billion term bank facility from a syndicate of major international and Australian banks. The facilities would have maturities ranging from one to five years.

"While these funds will be used by Macquarie Group to acquire certain assets of Macquarie Bank, it will effectively serve as a refinancing of group assets," Citigroup said in a note to clients. *Reuters*

Oil prices fall on eased US hurricane concerns

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES DROPPED Monday on expectations a strong Atlantic hurricane will spare key oil and gas facilities in the Gulf of Mexico.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery fell 58 cents to $71.40 a barrel in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, mid-afternoon in Singapore.

September Brent crude dropped 56 cents to $69.88 a barrel on the ICE futures exchange in London.

Hurricane Dean, which uprooted trees and tore roofs from homes as it skirted the southern coast of Jamaica on Sunday, was expected to slam into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula late Monday.

Early Monday, the storm had maximum sustained winds of 150 mph (241 kph), up from 145 mph (235 kph) Sunday, and could dump up to 20 inches (50 centimeters) of rain.

The storm is a powerful Category 4, and could reach the highest level, Category 5, with maximum winds greater than 155 mph (249 kph) later in the day, the US National Hurricane Center in Miami said in its latest advisory.

"The market is reacting to the news that it doesn't look like Hurricane Dean will affect key refining facilities in the US Gulf of Mexico," said Victor Shum, energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

"But I don't think prices will fall a whole lot further because the supply-demand fundamentals for oil remain about balanced. Nothing has really changed there," he said. "Traditionally, September is the peak month for hurricanes and so the oil market faces some upward exposure going forward in the next few weeks."

The Nymex crude contract rose 98 cents to settle at $71.98 a barrel Friday on earlier forecasts that Dean would turn into the central Gulf of Mexico and threaten oil and gas installations.

Royal Dutch Shell PLC said it would evacuate 275 nonessential personnel from the Gulf, adding to the 188 evacuated before another tropical storm struck Texas last week.

Chevron said it would evacuate a small number of nonessential personnel from deep-water facilities, but that production would continue at normal levels.

Exxon Mobil Corp., BP PLC and Valero Energy Corp. said they are monitoring Dean, but have not yet evacuated any workers.

Concerns about the global economy have also weighed on prices in recent weeks.

On Friday, the US Federal Reserve cut its discount rate by a half percentage point, easing some investors' fears of an economic slowdown.

Energy investors worry that any cooling in the economy could mean less demand for oil and gasoline.

In other Nymex trading, heating oil futures lost 1.94 cents to $1.9979 a gallon (3.8 liters) while gasoline prices dropped 5.19 cents to $1.9869 a gallon.

Natural gas futures declined 48 cents to $6.53 per 1,000 cubic feet.

AP

BSP seen maintaining tight monetary policy

Victory for cancer

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

PEOPLE IN LONDON KNOW something that we don't.

And that is, the Arroyo administration is giving an amazing "tax break" to a multinational company called British American Tobacco, or BAT.

Now BAT is the world's second biggest cigarette company.

In terms of the number of cigarettes sold here, this country only happens to be the world's 12th largest cigarette market.

It is also the country where at least 11 million people are living way below the World Bank's poverty line and, presumably, cannot afford the treatment for lung cancer.

Not to mention that, to raise revenue to cover its fat P1-trillion budget, the Arroyo administration is trying its best to kill us with taxes such as the 12-percent e-Vat.

Yet the administration does everything, including bending the rules, to give this vice merchant BAT lucrative tax breaks. *Naykopo!*

* * *

About two weeks ago, news broke out in the UK that the one and only BAT "scored an unexpected legal victory in the Philippines."

My info is that the report came out in the London-based Sunday Telegraph, saying that BAT was notified of the "victory" late last July.

Surprise—nobody in the Bureau of Internal Revenue knew about it!

It seems our very own Department of Finance, which actually stepped over the BIR to give BAT its—what was the term again?—er, "legal victory."

That "victory" is the DOF's reversal of an earlier BIR ruling, which imposed a P26-per-pack excise tax on BAT's "Pall Mall" brand of cigarettes.

According to BIR insiders, an undersecretary in DOF reduced the "Pall Mall" excise tax to P5.60 per pack, an almost 80-percent cut.

From what I gathered, probably because of the controversial makeup of BAT's "victory" at the DOF, the BIR was kept in the dark all this time.

The bureau only got hold of the DOF decision last week.

To think, the news report in London, which came out on Aug. 4, claimed that BAT knew about the "victory" as early as July.

Something fishy, you think? Nah! I don't believe it!

* * *

For the sake of the movie stars in the government, BAT claimed that it had entered into a licensing agreement with local firm La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory for the "Pall Mall" brand.

But here is the gist of the BIR ruling that said the excise tax on BAT's "Pall Mall" brand of cigarette should be P26 per pack: The scheme used by BAT and La Suerte to show that the tax should be P5.60 per pack is an "ingenious" tax avoidance measure.

That precisely is what the law on excise tax wants to plug! Only, the law could not anticipate that one brave undersecretary of the DOF would find more ingenious ways to go around the law.

* * *

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes recognizes that we need new electricity-generating plants, and he says we must already plan for them at this time.

But here is the catch: Their construction will only become a priority after the "privatization" of existing plants owned by state-owned Napocor.

Uh-oh—it means that the new power plants are not forthcoming soon.

Word goes around that the so-called Napocor mafia was able to convince the *Lola* at the Palace to ask Congress to amend the Epira.

That is actually the law reforming the energy sector, requiring Napocor to sell at least 70 percent of its power plants.

Our lawmakers are already talking about a Palace move to bring down the threshold privatization of Napocor to only 50 percent of its existing plants.

It looks like the Napocor privatization will take some time.

Meaning, the new power plants will also have to wait.

As for us, we must say "hi" again to brownouts in no time!

* * *

Unfairly caught in the mess left behind by runaway Singaporean Michael Liew, whose company called Performance Investment Products Corp. or PIPC, hit the headlines recently, is a legitimate business known as Performance Foreign Exchange Corp. or PEFC.

PIPC is the one involved in the investment fraud controversy, and Liew, who sneaked out of the country, is the principal figure.

News reports connect the PIPC and PEFC together, apparently because Liew was once a stockholder of PEFC. Nobody ever said that Liew actually sold out of PEFC more than three years ago.

Now, PIPC is an IT outsourcing company, providing clients with information on financial companies abroad. PEFC is engaged in forex trading.

From what I gathered, PEFC has submitted to authorities volumes of documents showing that it had nothing to do with PIPC.

The documents also showed that Liew already sold his holdings in PEFC to the Solid Gold Group, which is headed by Roberto Borromeo, who has been in banking all his working life.

Perhaps, the confusion arises because PEFC is involved in a high-yield but risky business of forex trading. In this venture, although the investor may earn big profits, he is also exposed to huge losses if the market turns against him.

Such is the nature of the beast, okay!

Also, sometime ago, the SEC questioned the legality of PEFC's operations, as it issued a cease-and-desist order to the company, despite the position taken by the Bangko Sentral that PEFC's operations were legit.

But from what I gathered, the Department of Justice and the courts (both the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court) had taken the same position as that of the BSP—meaning, against the SEC.

As for me, the SEC can use its time and talent elsewhere. All those pyramiding schemes, for instance!

HSBC concerned over possible rise in inflation rate

By Doris C. Dumlao

BRITISH BANKING GIANT HSBC SEES the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas maintaining a tight grip on monetary policy in the months ahead despite its benign inflation outlook.

"Anecdotal evidence suggests that the perceived price pressures are greater than reported by official statistics," HSBC said in its August view on Asian bond markets.

The bank said the official consumer price index, the basket used by the National Statistics Office to represent the consumer goods consumed by a typical Filipino household, was based on the year 2000 and that it might have failed to reflect the changing composition of local consumer demand.

"Moreover, considerable risks remain that inflation may accelerate in the coming months given red-hot aggregate demand," HSBC said.

During its policy-rate setting meet in July, the BSP cut its overnight borrowing rate by 150 basis points to 6 percent, defying the market's expectations of an unchanged rate. At the same time, the central bank removed the tiering scheme that paid declining rates on funds placed with the BSP in excess of P5 billion.

Since the BSP has also widened access to its special deposits account, HSBC said the BSP's action in July had been toward tightening, instead of keeping a neutral stance. "In addition, it represents a normalization of monetary policy in the country. With the return to changes in the benchmark rate as the primary policy tool, the central bank's policy has become more transparent," the paper said.

It said it was expecting authorities to maintain a tightening bias given ongoing concerns over rapid liquidity growth and upside risks to inflation.

HSBC said caution would warrant a tightening bias in months to come, saying that liquidity remained ample while domestic demand continued to barrel ahead.

It said there was a risk for inflation to "perk up," considering the government's widened inflation target of 3-5 percent in 2008 from 4-5 percent this year.

On the fiscal front, HSBC said infrastructure and social services spending should not be sacrificed to strengthen the public sector's finances.

At the same time, HSBC urged the government to seriously consider a revamp in its outdated tax system and the strengthening of the tax collection agencies to diminish the avoidance of taxes paying by professionals and small- and medium-size businesses.

"Put another way, we view negatively the 'stop-gap' use of privatization receipts to fill the revenue shortfall from poor tax collection," HSBC said.

Gov't posted ₱30B in interest savings in seven months

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PREVAILING LOW INTEREST RATES and a strong peso helped the national government realized P30 billion in savings on interest payments in the first seven months of the year, the Department of Finance said Friday.

DOF data showed that the government spent P159.5 billion for interest payments on its loans that matured from January to July. The amount was P30 billion lower than what the government had budgeted for the period.

As of the first half, savings from interest payments were placed at P20.2 billion.

Finance Secretary Gil Beltran said the savings were a result of better-than-anticipated macroeconomic factors, such as the benign interest rates and the stronger peso.

Beltran said the government, in setting its budget, assumed an average 91-day T-bill rate of 4-9 percent. The actual average rate, however, was only 3.16 percent.

On the exchange rate, the budget program assumed a peso-dollar rate of 48-50 to 1. However, the peso even broke into the P44-to-$1 territory in July.

A stronger-than-expected peso helps trim the government's foreign-currency denominated debts in peso term, and allowed the government to pay less than programmed.

The appreciation of the peso was attributed to the increased inflow of remittances from overseas Filipino workers and foreign investments, such as in the stock market.

Stock market gains in the first half of the year, however, were wiped out due to the pullout of some investments in the past weeks due to the US subprime market jitters.

But the peso has so far still remained stronger than the 48 to 50 assumed under this year's national budget.

Because the government spent less than what was programmed for interest payments, its total spending for the first seven months also fell below the expenditure ceiling stated under the national budget.

Government spending was set at P696.6 billion in January to July in the first seven months, but actual spending hit only 653.6 billion, or P43 billion less.

Under spending by certain government agencies accounted P13 billion of the total savings.

The Department of Budget and Management earlier said some agencies were not maximizing their budget partly due to the bureaucratic process in procurement. The DBM said it had directed the agencies to maximize the use of their budgets so as not to compromise the government's plan of pump-priming the economy.

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,200,000	1,050,000
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,300,000	1,050,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	330,000	300,000
CANLUBANG	550,000	450,000
CAPITOL HILLS	40,000	-
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB	-	2,000,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	120,000	100,000
CLUB FILIPINO	100,000	80,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	180,000	150,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	250,000	-
EAGLERIDGE "C"	350,000	-
FOREST HILLS "A"	90,000	-
LUISITA GOLF "A"	350,000	270,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	210,000	190,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	260,000	230,000
MANILA GOLF (CORP)	-	20,000,000
MANILA GOLF (IND)	-	18,000,000
MANILA POLO	Please Call	3,750,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	300,000	250,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	680,000	-
MANILA YACHT CLUB	200,000	-
MIMOSA (IND)	230,000	-
MT. MALARAYAT GOLD "A"	160,000	100,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	170,000	150,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	300,000	280,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	350,000	-
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	170,000	130,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	320,000	250,000
SPA & LODGE	500,000	450,000
STA. ELENA "A"	-	1,700,000
STA. ELENA "B"	-	2,050,000
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB	320,000	290,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	730,000	650,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	630,000
THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB "A"	360,000	300,000
VALLE VERDE (IND)	100,000	80,000
VALLEY GOLF	240,000	210,000
WACK-WACK GOLF CLUB	10,000,000	Please Call

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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
ALABANG A	1,100,000	PLS. CALL
ALABANG B	1,250,000	PLS. CALL
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	PLS. CALL	550,000
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	500,000	450,000
CANYON WOODS	100,000	80,000
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB		1,800,000
CELEBRITY CLUB	120,000	PLS. CALL
CLUB PUNTA FUEGO	350,000	320,000
EAGLERIDGE B	240,000	PLS. CALL
EAGLERIDGE C	350,000	320,000
EASTRIDGE	225,000	120,000
FOREST HILLS B	200,000	120,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB B	200,000	PLS. CALL
MANILA GOLF CORP	PLS. CALL	25,000,000
MANILA GOLF IND	23,000,000	20,000,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	PLS. CALL	4,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	300,000	250,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	850,000	PLS. CALL
MANILA YACHT CLUB(IND.)	350,000	150,000
METROCLUB A	PLS. CALL	150,000
MIMOSA C3	PLS. CALL	600,000
ORCHARD A	170,000	150,000
ORCHARD B		280,000
ORCHARD C	350,000	300,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	PLS. CALL	120,000
RIVIERA GOLF B	PLS. CALL	150,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	PLS. CALL	230,000
SPA & LODGE	550,000	PLS. CALL
SPLENDIDO	150,000	PLS. CALL
STA ELENA B	2,300,000	PLS. CALL
SUBIC BAY GOLF CLUB	100,000	PLS. CALL
SUMMIT POINT	350,000	PLS. CALL
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB	350,000	300,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	PLS. CALL	650,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS		650,000
THE PALMS IND.	380,000	PLS. CALL
TOWER CLUB IND.	200,000	100,000
VALLEY GOLF	PLS. CALL	220,000
VALLE VERDE	PLS. CALL	80,000
WACK WACK	PLS. CALL	9,000,000

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Seaoil to put up 3 more autogas stations

By Abigail L. Ho

INDEPENDENT OIL FIRM SEAOIL Philippines Inc. will put up three more stations offering autogas, or liquefied petroleum gas used as transport fuel, before the end of the year.

The company has, at present, eight autogas service stations, the requirements of which are being served by Liquigaz Philippines Inc., the second largest LPG supplier in the country.

According to industry data, the potential of autogas in the country is placed at between 200,000 and 400,000 metric tons a year.

To date, demand for autogas has reached around 6 million liters from more than 60 autogas refilling stations in Metro Manila. An estimated 150 taxis are converted to autogas each week.

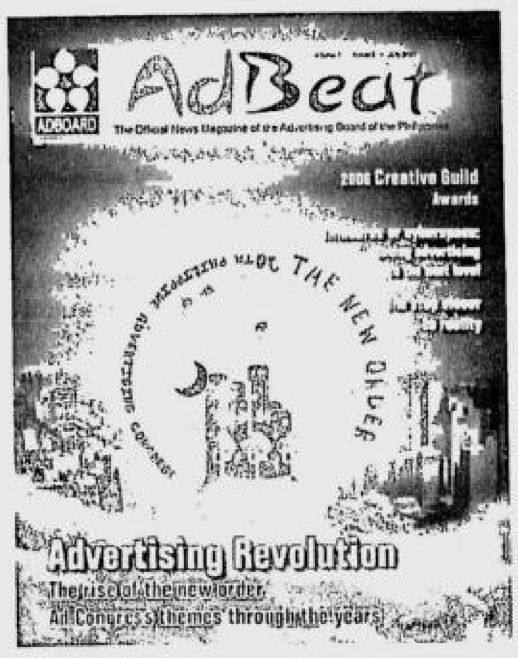
The country's autogas industry is encouraging private vehicle owners to also switch to LPG.

Industry data show that with almost 500,000 private vehicles in Metro Manila alone, at an average fuel refilling schedule of 40 liters a week, the industry can expect a monthly demand of 76.5 million liters if all these vehicles switch to autogas.

LPG-run buses are also expected to start plying the streets of Metro Manila in the next two months.

The Philippine LPG Bus and Taxi Co. Inc. will be pilot-testing 10 LPG-run buses from Chinese manufacturer King Long Buses by October, which will run the SM Fairview-Alabang route via C5, said company director Emmanuel Atienza.

Feel the new beat of advertising


AdBeat
ADBOARD
2006 Creative Guild Awards
THE NEW ORDER
Advertising Revolution
The rise of the new order
Ad Congress themes through the years

THE ADVERTISING BOARD OF THE Philippines (AdBoard) pumps new blood into the year's second issue of its official magazine, AdBeat. Pulses quicken with the enhanced look that better reflects the AdBoard's vitality and dynamism, and the spanking fresh sections that will educate and excite readers.

The latest issue lets the readers take a peek into the preparations for the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC). AdBeat editor Ivy Ong, talks to Yoly Ong, chair of the 20th PAC, who offers insight about "The New Order." New sections add more meat for readers to chew on, such as Medium at Large, Adukasyon, Adthology, The Apprentice, and Ad Hopping.

Medium at Large tackles the latest in advertising media, particularly billboards and the Internet. Adthology showcases the winners of the 2006 Creative Guild Awards. Adukasyon is precisely the update of its namesake, the AdBoard's advertising education and training program for students, featuring the latest batch of "adukados" and their highly innovative and creative projects. The Apprentice is a section written by a chosen "adukado" – in this case, Jake Victorio – as he recounts his experience of the four-weekend-long Adukasyon. Ad Hopping, taken from "island-hopping," brings readers to other parts of the world where advertising is concerned. For this issue, art director Corey Cruz writes about Pattaya, Thailand where the 2007 Adfest Young Lotus Workshop was held.

Cid Reyes and Grace Chong are AdBeat mainstays with their own columns, ADrenalin and Grace@work, respectively. ADrenalin waxes nostalgic with a revisiting of PAC in the past two decades, discussing how the themes echo the developments in Philippine advertising. Grace@work talks about Robbie David, the passionate individual who touched and inspired many people from the advertising industry.

Feel the rhythm of Philippine advertising with the new, improved AdBeat. For more information, contact the AdBoard at tel. nos. 818-6113, 818-6158, 813-4398 or visit Suite 6A, Dao 1 Condominium, 189 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City.

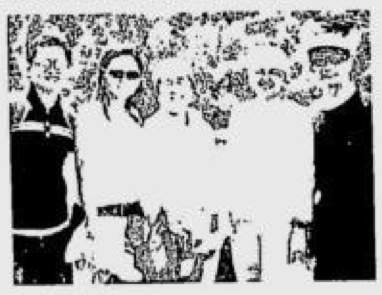
PLANTERSBANK EARNS GAWAD SME OF THE DECADE

Planters Development Bank received the most distinguished honors from the Small Business Corporation during the Bank Excellence Awards that capped the first decade celebration of the state-run agency for small enterprise development. Plantersbank received the Kabalikat SME Award for its 10-year record of outstanding performance under the SBCorp lending and guarantee programs. The award was presented to Plantersbank chair Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting (2nd from left) by SBCorp chair Zorayda Amelia C. Alonzo (far right) and SBCorp president Benel P. Lagua (far left). Also in the photo are Plantersbank president Maria Flordelis F. Aguenza and senior vice presidents Remigio Tito C. Tirones, Ana Rose T. Kwan and Maria Agnes J. Angeles.

BPI SAYS 'THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC'

Providing more than banking privileges, BPI Preferred Banking hosted another event for clients at the Blue Leaf in McKinley Hill last July. Clients were treated to a musical play featuring the familiar and catchy songs of Abba such as Dancing Queen, Chiquitita, I have a Dream Voulez Vous, Take a Chance on Me, Mamma Mia and a lot more. Performed by a powerhouse cast of theater artists led by Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Noni Buencamino, the show ended with clients dancing their way out of the theater. In photo are (from left) Gerry Magpantay, Sofronio Exconde, BPI senior vice president and head of preferred banking Imelda Trillo, Gabriel Timothy Exconde, Maristel Exconde, and Ruby Alvero.

NEW COTABATO TOURISM COUNCIL MEMBERS



Bai Sandra Sema, Chair of the Cotabato Tourism Council recently appointed new members of the Cotabato City Tourism Council. The new members are publicist Ayo Gunting, Putri Incy Bangcola, Bai Sofiya Malang. Witnessed by Bai Malang and Datu Manidsin Balabaran, the new appointees will play an imperative role in promoting tourism in Cotabato City and Maguindanao.

28 PHILIPPINE DELEGATES GO TO 34TH SSEAYP

Twenty-eight of the country's finest young leaders will be representing the nation as Philippine youth ambassadors to show Asia how great it is to be Filipino. The delegates to the 34th Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP) is a select group of young professionals, educators, community workers, students, artists, writers, designers and musicians. The SSEAYP is a diplomatic exchange program among and between the emerging youth leaders in Asia sponsored by the Cabinet Office of Japan. More than 300 youth delegates will participate in this program to promote and strengthen friendship and cultural understanding among the young people particularly in Southeast Asia. This year, the delegates will visit Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam and Japan from Oct. 22 to Dec. 12.

LLDA facilitates agreements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

THE LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPment Authority (LLDA), Local Government Units (LGUs) and private sector groups signed agreements to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. This effort is one of the activities of the LLDA's Laguna de Bay Community Carbon finance Project or Carbonshed Project, which is being implemented through a grant from the Japan Trust Fund - Special Program on Climate Change Initiatives, which the World Bank administers.

Through the Carbonshed Project, LLDA is encouraging groups in the Laguna de Bay Watershed to undertake activities that would reduce emissions of greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming.

The greenhouse gas emissions reduced will be purchased as "carbon credits" through the World Bank administered Community Development Carbon Fund and BioCarbon Fund.

LLDA officer in charge Dolora N. Nepomuceno signed the agreements on behalf of LLDA. The LGUs that signed the memoranda of agreement to develop such projects are: Mayor Rodel N. dela Cruz of Teresa, Rizal; Rodante C. Estrellado, president of the Pagsanjan-Lumban Basin Management and Development Foundation Inc; Cecilia T. Felipe, managing director of Cerdorado Farming Inc; and Donalita O. Renier, owner of Villa Gaston Piggery Farm. The agreements were signed for their biogas wastewater treatments projects.

Moreover, the LGUs that signed commitments to reduce a specified amount of greenhouse gases are: Mayor Emmanuel Magana of Kalayaan, Laguna; former Mayor Tomas Ricardo A. Tanjuatco of Tanay, Rizal; Mayor Cordova Sulibit of Liliw, Laguna; Mayor Joseph T. Buenaventura of Morong, Rizal; Mayor Rodel N. Dela Cruz of Teresa, Rizal; and Mayor Guillermo DL. Acero of Siniloa, Laguna. Previously Mayor Buenaventura of Morong and Mayor Dela Cruz of Teresa, Rizal signed similar commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through their composting projects.

The ceremonial signing of the agreements was held July 26, at the Astoria Plaza in Ortigas Center, Pasig city. The signing was followed by an orientation on the Clean Development Mechanism and a briefing on how the LLDA Carbonshed Project will benefit the communities both environmentally and economically.

For more information on carbon finance, visit http://carbonfinance.org/, llda.gov.ph/carbonshed.htm or call the office of Lennie C. Santos-Borja, Carbonshed Project team leader at (02)637-7581.

ASCP works toward certification of medical laboratory professionals in the Philippines

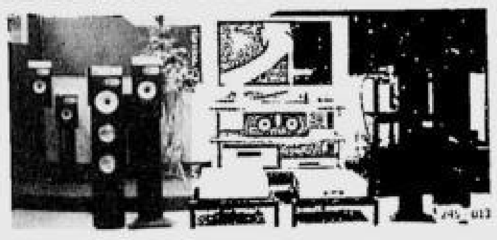
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR Clinical Pathology (ASCP) is moving forward with International Certification of medical laboratory professionals through ASCPi in the Philippines. Upon arrival in the Philippines, E. Blair Holladay, PhD, CT(ASCP), vice president and executive director of the ASCP board of registry and Jennifer Williams, CT (ASCP), international certification manager, presented a formal introduction to the process of international certification of medical laboratory professionals to the Philippine International Certification Committee. This presentation was sponsored by Roche (Philippines) Inc. "The importance of international certification for medical technologists in the Philippines is to achieve global competitiveness for Filipino medical technologists" said Agnes B. Medenilla, MT (ASCP); chair of the ASCP-Filipino Globalization Task Force for Certification. The committee discussed the logistics by which ASCP could realize its goals in the Philippines. The following meeting, sponsored by Abbott Diagnostics and United Laboratories, allowed ASCP representatives to interact with over 100 chief medical technologists, deans of schools conducting medical technology programs, the board of directors of The Philippine Association of Medical Technologists Inc (Pamet) and the Board of directors of The Philippine Association of Schools of Medical Technology/Public Health Inc. (Pasmeth). ASCP representatives and members of the Philippine International Certification committee later held an orientation to promote ASCPi to over 200 medical technology students in the Philippines. For more information, visit: www.ascp.org/certification/news/

ProductFiles

Photoline introduces the Aiptek T300

PHOTOLINE INTRODUCES THE latest Aiptek T300. This 6-in-1 digital camcorder is very affordable at only P6,645, which includes a digital video camcorder, digital still camera, MP3 Player, web cam, voice recorder and mass storage. The Aiptek T300 comes with a 1 year warranty plus free camera case and free 5R picture frame. Available at all branches. Aside from the latest digital cameras and accessories, Photoline also offers quality digital printing services and studio packages at everyday low prices. With branches strategically located from Luzon to Mindanao, the company's well-trained staff are known for giving quality customer service.

Toyama launches B&W new 600 Series

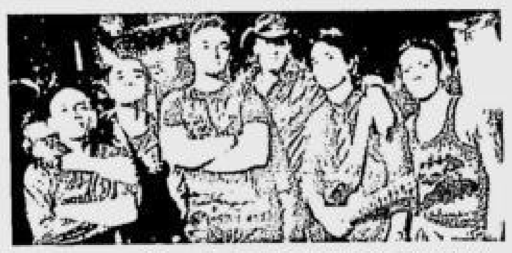


TOYAMA INC, THE Philippine distributor of the world renowned high-end Bower & Wilkins loudspeakers of England launches the new 600 Series. All elements of each the new 600 Series speakers have been revised and improved. The aluminum dome Nautilus tweeter features a neodymium magnet system for increased sensitivity, a copper plated pole piece for extended high frequency response, an edge-wound voice coil for lower voice-coil mass, and a new surround material that lowers the fundamental resonance frequency. The new 600 series bass/midrange and FST midrange drivers feature a new open profile cast chassis, a new design of fixed phase-plug that minimizes the possibility of air-noise, a new surround that smoothes the midrange response and a copper clad pole piece that improves integration with the tweeter. These developments, combined with B&W's renowned Kevlar cone technology, result in drivers that, like the new 600 Series tweeter, set new standards for an entry-level product range.

A new twist to health

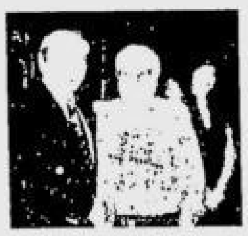
BLUEWATER DAY SPA MAKATI (THE METRO'S hub for soulful wellness) partners with Fruits Unlimited Phils Inc, a company that markets one of a kind, all-natural juices made of unique concoctions of vegetable and fruit extracts that go beyond ordinary refreshment (definitely no sugar and milk, so everything's kept to its original nutrition and deliciousness). Unlike other juice bars, Fruits Unlimited promotes one's health and wellness through a wide variety of fresh, all-natural juices specially formulated to detoxify the body, improve the immune system, fight common colds and allergies, and even help people who are diabetic. Hence, it's a holistic approach to a person's health and well-being. For only P45 to P70, getting a healthy sip from Fruits Unlimited after a relaxing treat at Bluewater Day Spa Makati is definitely easy. Bluewater Day Spa Makati is located at #103 Dela Rosa St. cor. Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, with tel. nos. 817-3126, 817-5455, 0917-8810092.

RED HORSE TVC: A CASTING COUP NO DOUBT



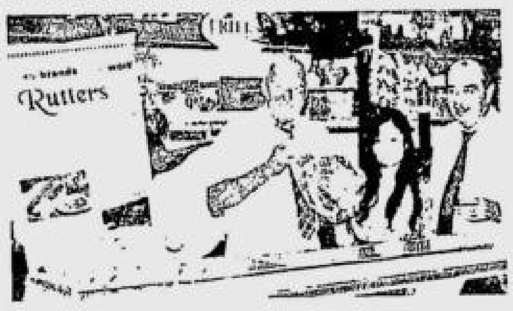
Red Horse Beer came up with a high-impact way to enforce its extra strong image as it gathered the meanest and loudest in Pinoy rock from across several generations for its newest television ad that aired recently amidst popular acclaim. Consider these names: former Juan de la Cruz band member Joey 'Pepe' Smith, Pupil and ex-Eraserheads frontman Ely Buendia, Wolfgang vocalist Basti Artadi, hardcore icon Karl Roy of Kapatid along with younger rock spawns Reg Rubio of Greyhoundz and Marc Abaya of Kjwan. Throw in basketball toughie Rudy Hatfield in an electrifying bar scene and you instantly have a classic. With these rock icons in full force, the commercial also drumbeats the upcoming Red Horse Beer Muziklaban that will draw the future stars of Pinoy rock, as mean and as loud as their predecessors.

SEÑOR ALBA AWARDED BY SPAIN



Señor Anastacio de Alba, the country's dean of Spanish cuisine, was conferred the Order of the Cross of Isabel Medal (La Cruz de official dela orden de Isabel la Catolica), one of the highest recognition given to any Spanish national. The medal was signed and awarded by King Juan Carlos I of Spain to Señor Alba for successfully promoting Spanish cuisine in the Philippines. Señor Alba (middle) is shown in photo being congratulated by Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz (left) while señora Aurora Sagaz looks on. Señor Alba's over 50 years of culinary experience have delighted generations of discriminating diners. Today, the 80-year old chef-restaurateur who hails from Avila, Spain, is still active in the kitchen of his Alba Restaurante Espanol located in Polaris St., Makati City; Eastwood, Libis and Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

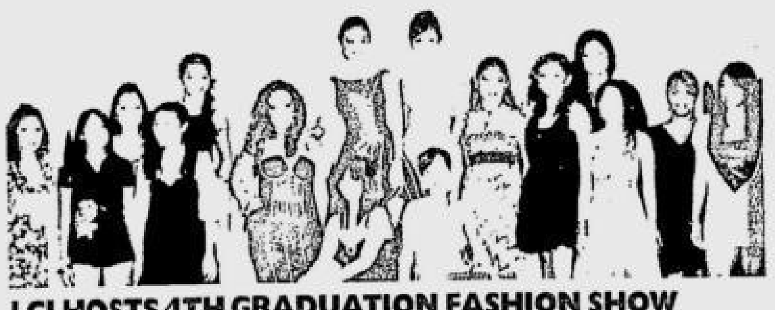
TASTE OF EUROPE NOW IN THE PHILIPPINES



Frierss, the brand that is of excellent taste and quality and the No. 1 delicatessen in Austria which is distributed by Rutterpil Corp, is now available at SM Hypermarket Pasig. Shown are Mr Claus (left, guest), Catherine Wieltsch (center, wife) and Peter Wieltsch (right, owner). It has has an array of best selling products, various cold cuts and cheeses. Rutterpil Corp was established in July 2006 which aims to cater branded delis in the Philippine market.

FORD SENDS 1ST BATCH OF FFV ENGINES FOR EXPORT

Following the launch of Ford Flexible Fuel Vehicle (FFV) engine plant in June of this year, Ford Philippines had a ceremonial send-off of its initial batch of FFV engines for export to South Africa. The engines were produced at Ford's P1.1 billion FFV engine plant in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Photo shows Ambassador Pieter Vermeulen of South Africa (2nd from right) and Ford Group Philippines president Rick Baker (3rd from left) during the ceremonial send-off of the first batch of FFV engines for export to South Africa. Present as well were Lilia de Lima, director general of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (2nd from left), Ford technical director for manufacturing and purchasing Jason Shang (extreme left) and Val Valero, Ford FFV engine plant manager (extreme right).



LCI HOSTS 4TH GRADUATION FASHION SHOW

The glitz, glamour, pride and heritage that has represented LaSalle College International (LCI) for years, arrived in a kaleidoscope of color and impeccable haute couture designs at Le Pavillon, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on June 22. LaSalle College International, the first and only international fashion school in the Philippines, made a stylish presentation of its 18 fashion design and fashion marketing graduates by showcasing their creative expressions and different personas.

ROTARY CLUB DONATES FIRE FIGHTING GEAR

Last June 22 at Danny's Grill & Restaurant, Macapagal, headed by Rotary Club-Quirino, Manila central president, Wilson Lim, turned over several sets of fire fighting gear to the Ermita-Malate Fire Volunteers, New Village Volunteer Fire Prevention unit Inc and the Fire Rescue Volunteers Central Lions Association Inc as part of the club's community service project. Shown are, from left: director Ricky Ongchan, director Jun Lim, director Willie Ty, PP Willy Tan, Spouse Jennifer Dee, IPP Edward Dee, director PP Gregg Tanlimco, president Wilson Lim, CP Anton Sy and fire fighters Jerome Co and Wiever Catubig.

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Coke Bolipata opens PPO 24th concert season

ACCLAIMED VIOLINIST ALFONSO "COKE" Bolipata opens the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra's (PPO) 24th concert season 2007-2008 slated on Sept. 7, 8:p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Main Theater. He will perform Bruch's *Violin Concerto No. 1 in G, op. 26*. PPO' s program will also include Brahms' *Symphony No. 2 in D major, op. 73* and Lowell Liebermann's *Loss of Breath, op. 58*.

Bolipata, one of the country's leading artists, a seasoned performer, teacher, writer, and administrator, received numerous awards including the 2000 TOYM Award (Ten Outstanding Young Men), the Katha Award for his recording "*Pelikula*," the 2001 Aliw Award as Best Instrumentalist for his performance of Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto* with the PPO, the 2002 Gawad Ng Maynila Award, and this year's *Alab Ng Haraya* Award by NCCA. In 1997, he won the National Book Award (Book Design) for his children's book *Water In The Ring Of Fire*.

Bolipata studied at the Juilliard School of Music in New York under Dorothy Delay, Jascha Brodsky, Felix Galimir, and James Buswell. He has performed worldwide as soloist and chamber musician in the major halls in America including Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fischer Hall, Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, and Kennedy Center, as well as numerous concerts all over America, Canada, Munich, Frankfurt, Paris, St. Nazaire, Japan, and Indonesia. He has also performed with the Beijing Philharmonic, the Nagoya Philharmonic, and the Bulgaria Radio Orchestra. In 1990, he received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (Washington) and Artists Affiliates (New York) to bring culture to the rural areas of America, spending 9 months in Dodge City, Kansas. After returning to the country, he founded CASA San Miguel, a community-based arts center in Zambales that integrates arts and the rural community, working with over 100 gifted children who now play violin, viola, cello, draw, paint, or act. In 2002 he wrote *Uyayi Ng Dalampasigan*, a multi-media play, which was presented in all the municipal plazas of Zambales and featured all the participants of CASA San Miguel through a grant from the NCCA and the Governor of Zambales. Bolipata co-founded the Metro Manila Community Orchestra and the Symphony By The Sea Community Orchestra composed of gifted students from CASA San Miguel with musician employees at SBMA who are also police enforcers, firemen, and engineers. Bolipata also served as a Trustee of the Cultural Center of the Philippines for 18 months.

Ticket prices: P350/500/700/900, with discounts for students, senior citizens and groups. For subscriptions, please call Ms. Lilia Casasola-Januare at the CCP Marketing Department-832-1125 loc. 1806 or call the CCP Box Office –832-3704, Ticketworld at National Bookstore and Tower Records-891-9999 for tickets, or visit www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

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Republic of the Philippines
PUERTO PRINCESA CITY WATER DISTRICT
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
263 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Tel. Nos. (048) 433-2408 / 433-5032 / 433-6802
Fax No. (048) 433-6803

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Puerto Princesa City Water District through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project : Supply & Delivery of Pipes, C.I. Fittings and Hydrants
Location : Puerto Princesa City Water District Stockyard, Sta. Monica, PPC

Description of Project :

LOT I uPVC Pipes & Warning Tape

ITEM	QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION
1	937	Pcs.	uPVC Pipes 2"Ø X 6.0m Class 100 w/ RR
2	361	Pcs.	uPVC Pipes 4"Ø X 6.0m Class 100 w/ RR
3	67	Pcs.	uPVC Pipes 6"Ø X 6.0m Class 150 w/ RR
4	112	Pcs.	uPVC Pipes 10"Ø X 6.0m Class 150 w/ RR
5	9,629	Lm.	Warning Tape H2O (Blue)

LOT II – C.I. Fittings and Fire Hydrants

ITEM	QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION
1	200	Pcs.	C.I. Dresser Coupling 2"Ø M/M Fully Machined
2	100	Pcs.	C.I. Dresser Coupling 4"Ø M/M Fully Machined
3	50	Pcs.	C.I. Dresser Coupling 6"Ø M/M Fully Machined
4	2	Pcs.	C.I. Cross Tee 250mm (ID) x 250mm x 150mm x 150mm
5	125	Pcs.	C.I. Tee 2" x 2" M/M Fully Machined
6	50	Pcs.	C.I. Gate Valve 2" M/M Fully Machined Brass Seated
7	30	Pcs.	C.I. Gate Valve 4" M/M Fuly Machined Brass Seated
8	5	Pcs.	C.I. Gate Valve 6" M/M Fully Machined Brass Seated
9	50	Pcs.	C.I. Elbow 2" x 90deg. M/M Fully Machined
10	2	Pcs.	C.I. Gate Valve 10" M/M Fully Machined Brass Seated
11	5	Assy.	Fire Hydrant one way Assy. 2"Ø (Brass Body)
12	5	Assy.	Fire Hydrant one way Assy. 3"Ø (Brass Body)
13	50	Pcs.	C.I. End Cap 2"Ø M/M
14	6	Pcs.	C.I. Adopter Flange 6"Ø M/M Fully Machined

Approved Budget for the Contract:
Lot I : Php 2,577,664.00
Lot II : Php 1,534,289.00

Delivery Period : Twenty (20) Calendar Days from the receipt of the Notice to Proceed

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 22, 2007 – September 5, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	August 30, 2007, 1:30 PM @ GM's Office
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	September 12, 2007, 1:30 PM @ GM's Office
4. Opening of Bids	September 12, 2007, 1:30 PM @ GM's Office

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,500.00 for Lot 1 and Php 1,500.00 for Lot II to the Puerto Princesa City Water District Cashier.

The Puerto Princesa City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. VICENTE D. ABREA
PPCWD BAC Chairman

(PDI – August 21, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development – Central Visayas
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – CENTRAL VISAYAS (DOH-CV), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to re-bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : CATERING SERVICE FOR DOH-CHD CENTRAL VISAYAS' PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR – (RE-BIDDING)
Location : Cebu City
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : PhP 2,937,000.00
Contract Duration : One Year

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 21-31, 2007 DOH-CV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
2. Pre-bid Conference	August 31, 2007 at 9:30 am Tugas Conference Room DOH-CV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
3. Opening of Bids	September 13, 2007 at 9:30 am Tugas Conference Room DOH-CV, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,000.00 in cash to the DOH-CV Cashier.

The Department of Health – Central Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Date of Posting: August 21-28, 2007.

Department of Health – Central Visayas
Mrs. Elizabeth P. Tabasa – BAC Secretariat Chairperson
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
Telephone No.: (032) 253-6359
miggerson@yahoo.com (032) 253-3419 Telefax
www.chd7.doh.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ENGR. MIGUEL T. GERSON
BAC Chairman

(PDI – August 21, 2007)

PSALM
POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation *("PSALM")* Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee (the *"Committee"*) invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

The Hydroelectric Power Complex consisting of the 75 MW Ambuklao Hydroelectric Power Plant located at Bokod, Benguet and the 100 MW Binga Hydroelectric Power Plant located at Itogon, Benguet

(the "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where is" basis and will include a power supply allocation.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest (*"LOI"*) to the Committee which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office with address at the 7th Floor Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than **5:00 p.m. on 14 September 2007** (the *"LOI Submission Deadline"*). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, both in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S.$ 1,000.00) (the *"Participation Fee"*). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall either be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking, and Participation Fee must be received by the Committee on or before **5:00 p.m.** on **18 September 2007** to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package which includes the Bidding Procedures shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from **5 September** until **19 September 2007** (the *"Deadline"*) at the PSALM Office. Only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or consortium (as described below) will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a bid and enter into the pertinent agreements. Once an interested party submits the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and pays the Participation Fee, such interested party may no longer be substituted in the privatization process, except through a consortium in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures, among the requirements of which are (i) such interested party must own at least a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium; (ii) the consortium must be a juridical entity; and (iii) a letter requesting to bid through consortium must be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	: 27 August 2007 to 21 November 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	: 26 September 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Bid Submission Deadline	: 28 November, 12:00 noon at the PSALM Office

References to the dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Interested Parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Two Million Five Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S.$ 2,500,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit which must be accepted to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guaranty prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. The details of the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telefax number (632) 892-6029 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) **ANGELO T. REYES**
Chairman
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 20, 21 & 22, 2007)

OBITUARIES

In Loving Remembrance
of the 4th Death Anniversary

Earl K. Wilkinson

March 15, 1927 – August 21, 2003

Quietly remembered everyday, still loved,
still missed in every way.

TIM, family and friends

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

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DR. GAUDENCIO AQUINO PAGUIA

(Former President of Philippine Dental Association)
(Former Dean of College of Dentistry,
Manila Central University)

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on August 20, 2007 at the age of 71.

He is survived by his loving son **Patrick**; sisters **Maria Luisa, Teresita, Emma** and brother **Ike**.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 23rd of August, 2007 at the Eternal Gardens, Baesa, Caloocan City.

Lower power rates in ecozones seen

'Open access' implementation

By Abigail L. Ho

IN A BID TO MAKE LOCAL INDUSTRIES more competitive with their counterparts overseas, the Department of Energy will declare public and private economic zones in the country open access areas, giving locators a chance to choose their power supplier.

Following yesterday's energy sector "command conference" with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Energy Undersecretary Melinda Ocampo said the arrangement in the ecozones would serve as a prelude to a full open access system, with ecozone locators becoming part of the contestable market for power.

"Industrial customers will be directly connected to high-voltage transmission lines," she said, adding that this would reflect the true cost of power. "The generation part will be deregulated and only the distribution charge will be regulated. It will be a true open access."

She said some opposition could be expected from private distribution utilities such as the Manila Electric Co., which might lose some big customers with the introduction of the open access scheme.

"We expect some resistance, but we hope to get their cooperation as we only want to give the lowest power rates (to industries)," she said.

She did not give a specific amount by which existing rates to industrial customers would be reduced, saying only that with open access, the rates would depend on which supplier a company would choose. Trade Secretary Peter Favila said the Philippine Economic Zone Authority would soon be issuing guidelines for the implementation of the open access scheme in both private and public ecozones.

He said Peza would also look into declaring some geothermal sites as industrial zones, to encourage industries to locate in those areas. These include Tiwi in Albay, Bacon-Manito in Sorsogon, Tongonan in Leyte, Palinpinon in Negros Oriental, Mt. Apo in Cotabato, Makiling-Banahaw in Laguna, and Bago in Negros Occidental.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said Ms Arroyo had given a specific directive to reduce power rates.

Part of the initiative to follow this order, he said, was the implementation of the open access scheme in ecozones.

"We will coordinate with the appropriate agencies for that," he said. "It was discussed earlier that we have one of the highest power rates in the region, so we really have to reduce them. The move in Peza will partially address this problem."

IT'S RAINING IN PAMPANGA
Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap visits the floodwater- submerged ricefields of Barangay Pulong Gubat, Candaba, Pampanga, which was a result of a 50-meter breach at the Maasin river dike caused by too much rainfall. With Yap are Candaba Mayor Gerry Pelayo and Administrator Marcelino Tugaoen of the National Irrigation Administration.

RCBC soured loans, idle assets down

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE YUCHENGCOS' Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. reported a sharp decline in its soured loans and idle property assets in the first semester versus year-ago levels.

The ratio of RCBC's non-performing loans to its total loans eased to 6.7 percent as of end-June from 9.2 percent a year ago.

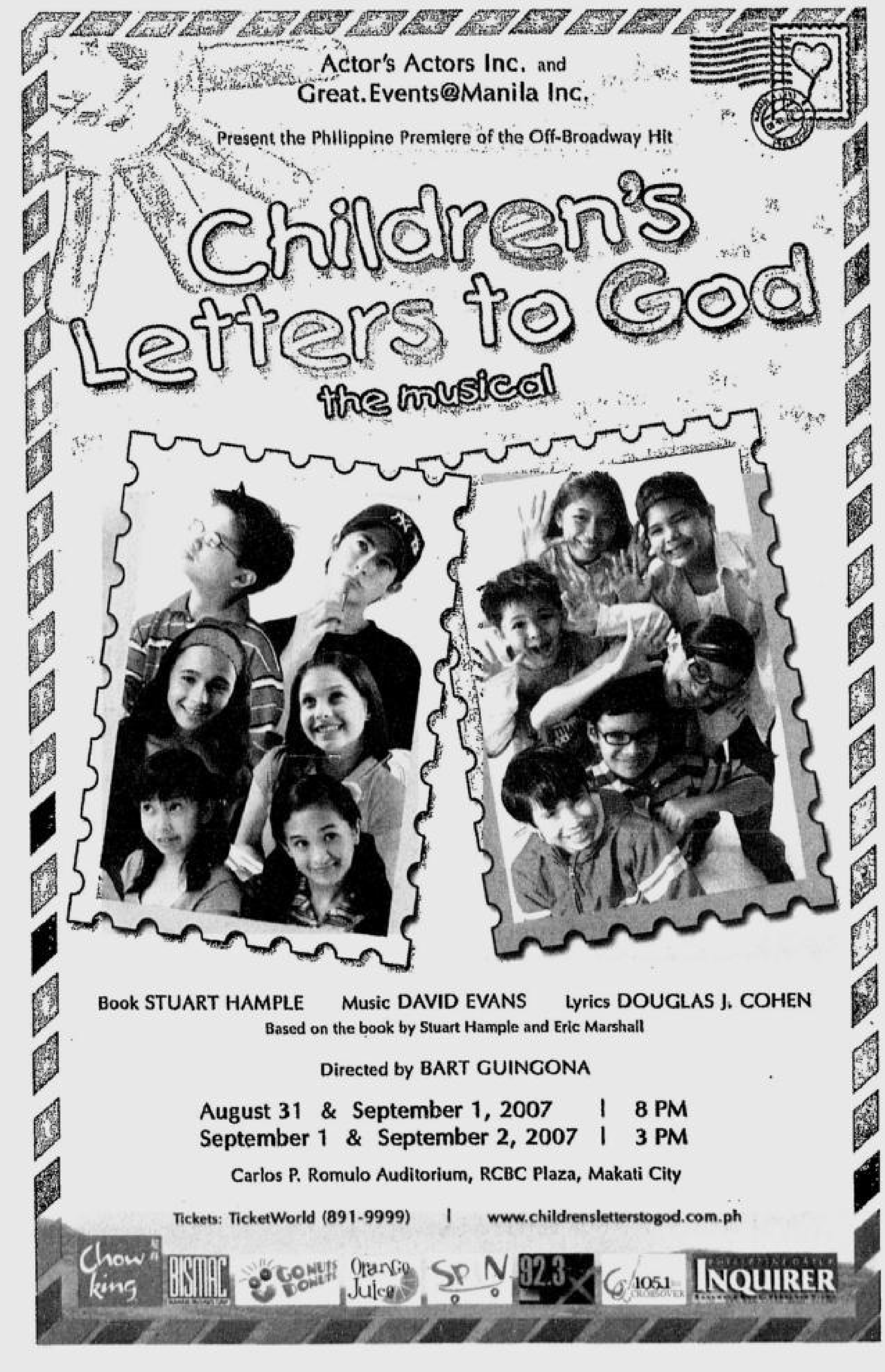
The ratio of the bank's non-performing assets, which sum up bad loans and foreclosed property holdings, to its gross assets also went down to 6.1 percent from 9.7 percent in June last year.

"We aggressively sold most of our assets through negotiated sales and auctions. We have conducted a lot of auctions where we put out a lot of assets for sale. So far, we have noted a 44-percent success rate in terms of number of properties and up to 40 percent in terms of book value," said RCBC senior vice president for asset management Adeline Carbonell.

In peso terms, RCBC's total past due loans stood at P5.3 billion and idle property holdings or Ropa (real and other property acquired) at 6.3 billion, respectively, as of end-June.

During the period, the bank's asset management and remedial group posted a net income of P182 million, higher than the P150 million projected for the entire year and more than double the P90 million registered a year ago.

Higher demand especially from overseas workers has helped the bank unload a lot of its idle property holdings.



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the musical

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Directed by BART GUINGONA

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September 1 & September 2, 2007 | 3 PM

Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati City

Tickets: TicketWorld (891-9999) | www.childrensletterstogod.com.ph

Steel company inks power supply deal with Napocor

PAMPANGA-BASED MELTERS STEEL CORP. (MSC) has entered into a power supply deal with National Power Corp. for the provision of 1.8-4.3 megawatts of electricity from this year to 2011.

The steel company started drawing power from Napocor last month, following the Energy Regulatory Commission's issuance of a provisional authority for the company to get its electricity requirement directly from the state firm.

Under their contract for the supply of electric energy (CSEE)—which would be in effect from July 26, 2007 to Dec. 25, 2011—MSC would initially get 1.8 MW of power from Napocor in July to December this year.

Once the company goes into full commercial operations by January next year, its electricity requirement and off-take from Napocor would go up to 2.3 MW. This volume would be kept from January to December 2008.

By 2009, Napocor would increase its power supply to MSC to 3.4 MW, before reaching the maximum level of 4.3 MW in 2010 and 2011, as stipulated in the contract.

Based on Napocor's estimates, its new contract with MSC would generate about P13.1 million in additional revenue monthly, or P157.2 million a year.

As with its other customers, the state firm would charge MSC using its ERC-approved time-of-use (TOU) rates.

Under the TOU scheme, customers are provided with flexible hourly rates that are lowest during off-peak hours, or between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and highest during peak hours, or from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sundays and holidays are also considered off-peak period.

Rates are also lower during the wet season, or from July to December, as electricity demand usually falls during this time due to colder weather. Also, hydroelectric plants are able to produce more power during these months.

Industrial users can opt to shift their loads to off-peak hours to take advantage of lower rates, according to the state firm.

Apart from MSC, Napocor has other steel companies as its customers, including SKK Steel Corp., Puyat Steel Corp., Stronghold Steel Corp., Global Steelworks Corp. (formerly National Steel Corp.), Treasure Steelworks Corp., Elegant Steel Corp. and Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. *Abigail L. Ho*

Mining firm pays ₱237M in taxes

MINING FIRM SR METALS INC. HAS REmitted about P237.5 million in taxes and dues to the national and local governments in the first seven months of the year.

SRMI president Miguel Alberto Gutierrez said the Agusan del Norte-based firm's tax payment was boosted by its robust export operations from January to July this year.

The company operates a nickel-cobalt mining project on a 60-hectare site in La Fraternidad, Tubay, Agusan del Norte, adjacent to the provincial capital of Cabadbaran City.

According to Gutierrez, the P237.5 million in remittances to the government include P53 million in excise taxes and more than P119 million in value-added taxes from its purchases of heavy equipment. The amount also includes extraction fees and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) dues.

Gutierrez added that the host community of La Fraternidad stood to gain P25 million in internal revenue from SRMI operations during the year. This is in addition to some P25 million in infrastructure investments already made by SRMI for the development of roads, school buildings, health, social and port facilities.

SRMI is a 100-percent Filipino-owned company.

Gutierrez said SRMI maintained a bullish outlook on nickel exports based on sustained demand for the product particularly from China. The substance is an important component in the manufacture of electronic products and metal goods, and in transportation and construction. It is a vital element in the booming stainless steel industry.

Cebu Pacific raises capacity to KL

CEBU PACIFIC WILL INCREASE THE CApacity of its Manila-Kuala Lumpur service by almost 20 percent with the upgrade of the 150-seater A319 aircraft utilized for this route.

Beginning Nov. 3, 2007, CEB will use a 179-seater A320 aircraft to fly four times weekly to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The airline started its four times weekly Manila-Kuala Lumpur service on Nov. 30, 2006. Since then, it has maintained an average passenger load of more than 80 percent.

CEB is the only Filipino airline operating in the Philippines-Malaysian market.

The airline hopes to carry more passengers to Kuala Lumpur especially with the continued support of the Malaysian Tourism Board.

Aside from offering the lowest fares to Malaysia from Manila, CEB has implemented joint programs with the Malaysian Tourism Board in preparation for the 50th Grand Independence celebration of Malaysia.

"We're very encouraged by both the loads for Kuala Lumpur and the continued support extended by Tourism Malaysia. We are confident that our joint efforts will further strengthen this route and the additional capacity will be filled up quickly," said Candice Iyog, CEB VP for marketing and product.

Eva Carmona, Tourism Malaysia marketing manager said, "We are very pleased that CEB will increase its capacity after barely a year in operation. This will surely allow more Filipinos and tourists to visit Malaysia as it celebrates its 50th year of independence. We hope that many will avail of CEB's year-round low fare offering so that they can spend less on air travel and more on their business and leisure activities."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYL

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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IN THIS ISSUE

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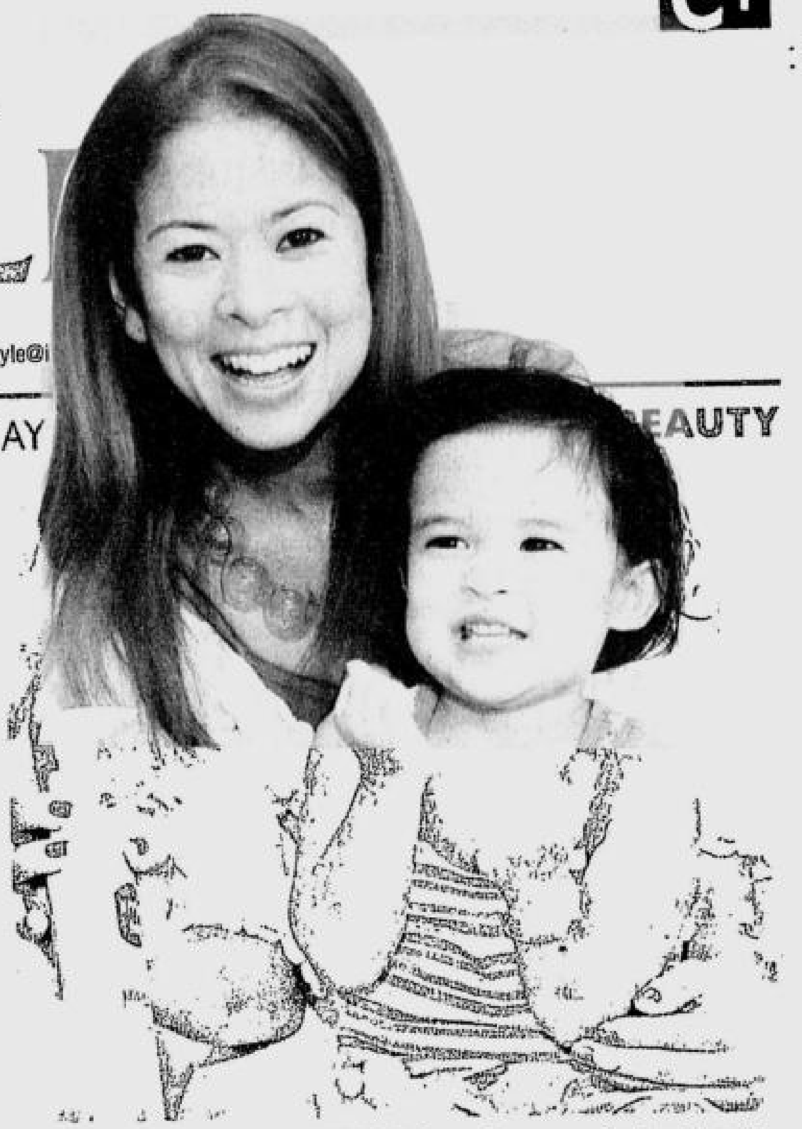
- Making choices /C5

NIVEA Baby
Silk Shine Shampoo
Extra Mild Shampoo
Head-To-Toe Wash
Milk Lotion
Caring Oil
Powder
Cream Soap
Soft Cream

NIVEA Baby offers a complete range of products specially formulated to cleanse, care and protect baby's delicate skin.



NIVEA Baby spokesperson for healthy skin, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, with 2-year-old daughter Athena

Motherhood becomes her

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Alex van Hagen

LIFESTYLE ICON TESSA Prieto-Valdes, heretofore known to many for her colorful outfits, is now getting much-deserved attention for her mothering style and skills, too.

After being conferred the title "Idol ng Breastfeeding" by the Department of Health, she is now championing healthy baby skin as endorser of the new Nivea Baby line.

Valdes was chosen because she exemplifies the modern mother and she is a staunch advocate of proper infant care.

Nivea Baby is a complete line of baby essentials from head-to-toe wash, shampoo and soap to lotion, oil and powder. The products are meant to cleanse, care and protect baby's delicate skin.

Valdes has always been a hands-on mother to her four children. Two-year-old daughter Athena was breastfed exclusively for six months. Valdes then introduced her to other foods but continued to breastfeed for another six months despite her busy schedule.

"Tessa is known for her glitz and glamour," said Rica King, Nivea's marketing director. "But very few know that she is also a dedicated and practical mom... she's a very nurturing and down-to-earth person. She simply knows how to enjoy the good things in life and truly treasures them.

> Very few people know that Tessa Prieto-Valdes is also a dedicated and practical mom, a very nurturing and down-to-earth person

"And, because of Tessa's exceptional traits and dedication to parenting, it was easy for us to pick her as Nivea Baby ambassadress for healthy skin," King said.

Baby friendly

Nivea baby products were developed in close collaboration with pediatricians and dermatologists. They contain natural minerals clinically proven to strengthen baby skin's natural protective barrier against skin irritations and other problems.

"Not only does Nivea Baby strengthen the skin's own protective function, it also provides extra-gentle cleansing and care because it's free of

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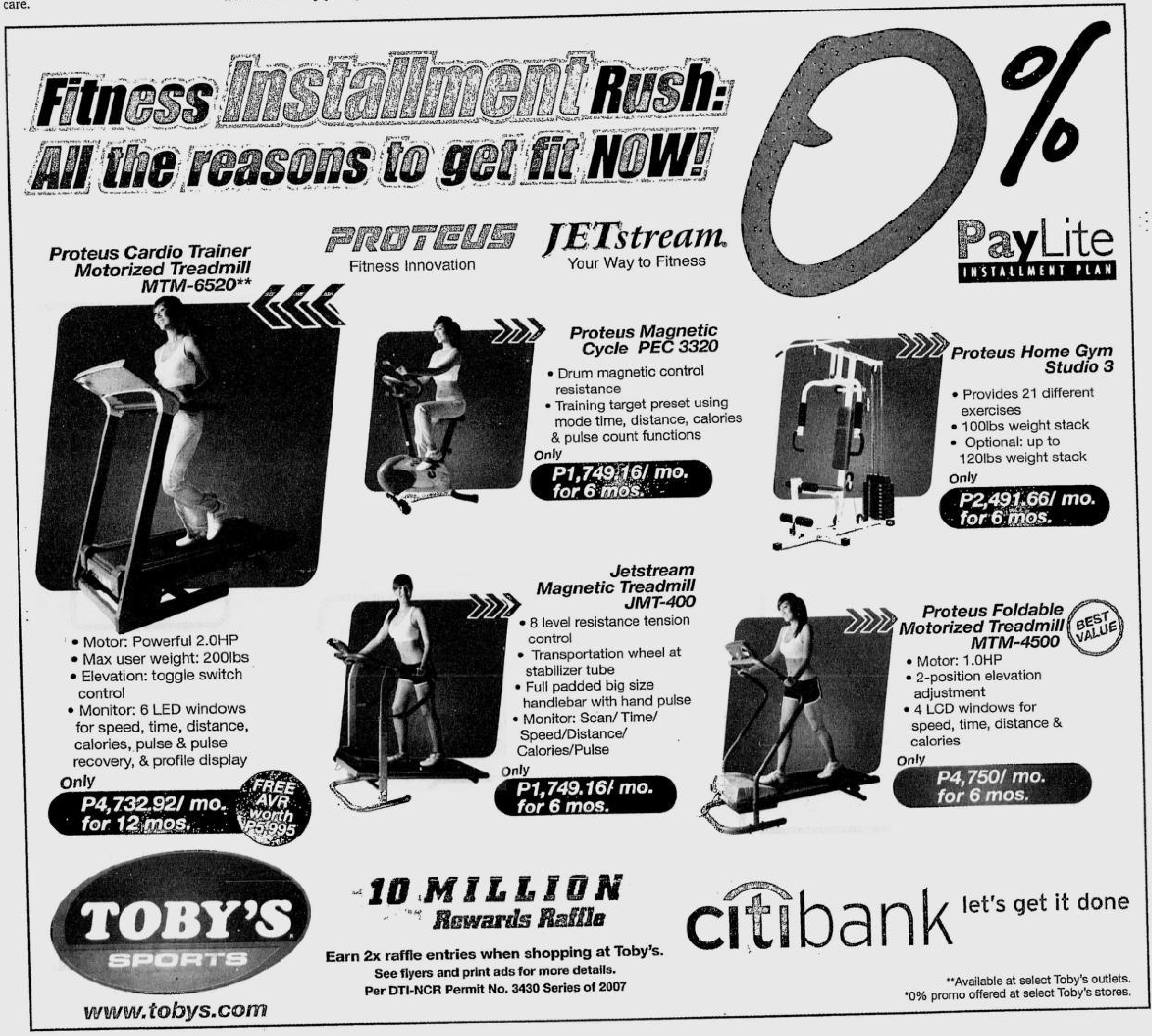
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JMT-400

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Proteus Foldable
Motorized Treadmill
MTM-4500

BEST VALUE

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INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

The healer in you

IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED BY medical experts that the cause of illness and aging is inflammation.

So logic dictates that if you control inflammation, sickness and old age can be managed, or delayed, if not stopped.

The mind heals

Dr. Kevin Tracey, neurosurgeon, immunologist and director of the Feinstein Institute of Medical Research, Manhasset, New York, proved in a series of studies since 2000 that a major nerve in the brain called vagus held the key to healing.

This nerve, running from the brain stem to the belly, regulates heartbeat, breathing and the intestines. It uses neurochemicals that, in turn, signal immune cells and prevents them from releasing alarm molecules that cause damage through inflammation.

A connection called the "inflammatory reflex" exists between the brain and the immune system. If it were possible to activate the reflex each time there is an inflammation in the body, then the fight against disease can be won.

Taking it easy

There is a stress hormone called norepinephrine. Its presence in the body is not welcome, unless you want to get sick.

Lab-grown cancer cells can be stimulated by this hormone to move through the body with greater facility and ease and then metastasize or spread, according to Ronald Glaser, PhD., Ohio State University Medical Center, in "Cancer Research" (November issue).

The exciting discovery here is that calming the mind to overcome stress may yet prove to be the best cancer fighter of all.

Meditation as medicine

If one can slow down the heartbeat through a meditation regimen, this will modify vagus nerve activity, thus fighting inflammation. This is the general belief.

A regimen of mind-body exercises and approaches can only prove to be an asset and not a liability to health management and disease prevention.

Relax now, not tomorrow

Postponing relaxation can spell the difference between good health and bad. If you can just sit back and relax now, do it. If you can't, make it happen.

Chances are only for those willing to gamble. Therefore, if you want certainty, take control now. Do not leave things to chance.

Taking a much needed break whether it's 15 minutes or 15 days can only have beneficial results.

To do:

1. Put feet up in the office or home whenever possible. The act of sitting back and raising your feet already signals your brain to take it easy.

2. Cut back on the caffeine, whether coffee or black tea, lessen your intake if in excess of 4-5 cups daily.

3. Stay away from noise. Noisy places and people can put you in a state of unease. Find peaceful and harmonious surroundings whenever possible.

4. If you suffer from high blood pressure, cut back on sodium and caffeine. Lose weight and increase potassium (3,500 mg daily) and magnesium (280 mg) or eat potatoes, spinach, bananas, cabbage, broccoli.

Loving breath

Take slow, deep breaths called the "loving breath." While doing so, forget your anger and bitterness. Leave them behind.

By doing this even for as little as five minutes in the morning and five minutes in the evening, you are already placing yourself in a state of calm.

Start packing

Visualize a giant suitcase. Open it. In this suitcase you will pack your pains, hurts and disappointments in life. Now lock it up. And throw away the key.

In this way, you will never be able to reopen it and go down memory lane again. Each time you recall a painful situation, stress hormones run amuck all over your body.

You don't want this to happen, do you? So, pack up your pain. And never open the suitcase again.

The healer is you

If the famous line "Physician heal thyself" is true, then the message is clear. The healer is in us all. And so, the power to be sick or well, is in your hands. Now, shake hands with the physician in you.

Affirm today: "The doctor is in."

Love and light!

References: Readers Digest, May 2007 - "Brain Powered" by Dan Ferber, Phd; "Age Erasing Secrets" by Kevin Ireland

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Cool promo for cool kids

MOTHERS ALWAYS WANT TO ensure comfort for their kids.

So it is important for them to choose materials for clothes, footwear and diapers that will keep children cool and comfortable at play and when they are asleep.

And they should be able to keep up with the changing needs of a growing child.

Crocs shoes and Drypers Wee Wee Dry are designed to provide comfort at all times while responding to changing needs.

Drypers Wee Wee Dry has a durable absorbent core that is less likely to break even when wet. Drypers' cloth-like cover keeps baby's skin cool and fresh.

On the other hand, Crocs' unique perforated toe box provides ventilation to keep little feet cool and comfortable.

And with the Drypers Cool Crocs, Cool Kids promo, kids have a chance to win pairs of Crocs.

Coupons attached to specially tagged Drypers XXL convenience or jumbo packs can win a child a pair of Crocs Kids Cayman, Kids Athens or Kids Scute. Promo is ongoing until Sept. 30.

Now Available
XXL
Drypers
Drypers

COUPONS attached to Drypers XXL convenience or jumbo packs can win a child a pair of Crocs Kids Cayman, Kids Athens or Kids Scute.

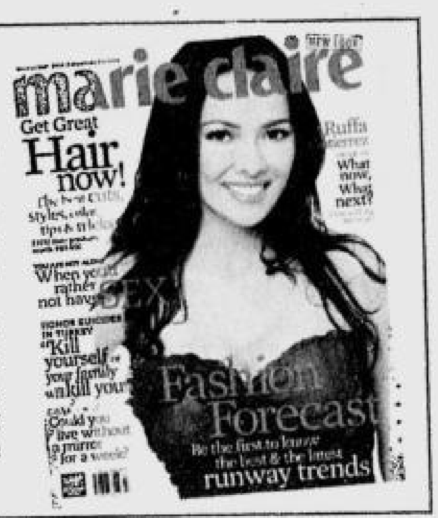
All about hair

THIS AUGUST, MARIE Claire magazine has a hair special featuring the best cuts, styles, colors, tips, and tricks to help readers get great hair now.

Choose from 40 celebrity cuts for every hair type. Whether you want a short-and-sleek bob like Katie Holmes or sultry waves like Angelina Jolie, Marie Claire has tips and tricks to help you look and feel like a star.

Cover of the August issue is Ruffa Gutierrez, who talks about embarking on a new journey in life.

Marie Claire Magazine gets its own makeover with an all-new look for August, now available in leading bookstores and magazine stands at P125 per copy.



Mt. Makiling tree planting continues

DUPONT PHILIPPINES REAFFIRMED its environmental commitment with a tree planting project in Mt. Makiling, Laguna.

Now on its seventh year, the annual project started with the planting of 1,165 seedlings close to the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA).

The annual tree planting is in line with one of DuPont's core values—environmental stewardship. The company supports sustainability efforts that improve the quality of life and enhance the vitality of communities.

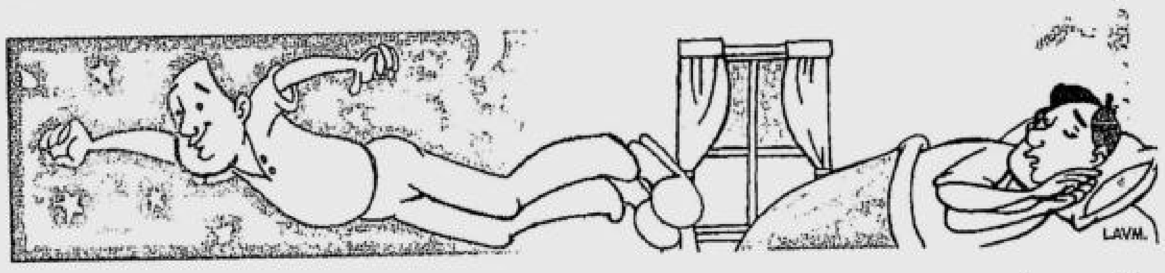
The project site, Mt. Makiling Reserve, is one of the few remaining areas in the country with large areas of intact natural forests and a high diversity of flora and fauna, many of them indigenous to the place.

Founded in 1802, DuPont operates in more than 70 countries and offers a wide range of products and services for agriculture, nutrition, electronics, communications, safety and protection, home and construction, transportation and apparel.

Since it started its project in 2001, a total of 5,365 trees have been planted in 2.51 hectares in Mt Makiling. Among the trees planted were *narra*, *balakat gubat*, *banuyo*, *kalumpit*, *betis*, *ipil*, *supa*, *lamog*, *lamio*, *lipote*, *molave*, *makaasim*, white lauan, *pangnan*, *malabuho*, *palusapis* and many others.

This year, DuPont aims to add at least 1,100 new seedlings to the reforestation area.

The annual DuPont tree planting activity is in cooperation with the PHSA, the University of the Philippines Los Baños and the Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems.



INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Clairvoyance explained

SCIENCE HAS NO SATISFACTORY explanation of clairvoyance and several other psychic phenomena.

In fact, science tries so hard to discredit them because these powers are not always duplicable or repeatable under laboratory conditions.

Open-minded investigators, on the other hand, have merely observed and documented the phenomena without trying to explain them.

This is where the ancient and largely misunderstood occult science is helpful. Our explanation will be derived from occult literature.

Although the explanation is entirely unprovable and may even sound "fantastic" and "incredible," it offers a fresh view, a mental handle with which to grasp such a nebulous power.

Eastern literature explains clairvoyance in relation to the astral plane. All our physical faculties and senses have counterparts in the astral plane.

Vibrations from all objects are received by astral faculties and transmitted to the consciousness of humans. It takes much practice and discipline to do this, i.e. to make it conscious.

But every person possesses such faculty or power. In other words, it is natural to have such powers.

2 ways of seeing

There are two ways to see clairvoyantly. One is by focusing on a distant object and seeing through the "astral tube." Another is through projection of the astral body and observing a scene through astral vision.

Through astral projection, a clairvoyant can literally observe and hear what is going on anywhere and report this to the physical consciousness. This ability is much more difficult to accomplish consciously compared to the "astral tube" method.

When we are in the astral body in the astral plane, it is possible to travel "to any point within the limits of this planet."

People often travel in their astral body in their sleep. Some travel consciously in their waking moments, a few have learned to travel consciously and at will in their waking moments.

However, from years of teaching remote viewing (or traveling clairvoyance), I have come to believe that astral projection is not necessarily involved.

It is possible to project one's consciousness or awareness to a distant place, describing it accurately, without leaving the body.

But at least once in my class, a person doing remote viewing was actually seen in the house he was looking at mentally. He was described accurately by a person in the house though he was not there physically.

Mental process

What is the mental process in clairvoyance? How does a clairvoyant see?

Many psychics cannot explain or describe what happens. Juan Matus tried for years to explain to anthropologist Carlos Castañeda to "see" the world and not to be content with "looking."

But, after many years of intensive apprenticeship and four bestselling books (beginning with "The Teachings of Don Juan"), Castañeda still could not understand what it meant to "see."

Clairvoyant Olof Jonsson asked how he could accurately describe what card would come up next during a demonstration of his psychic powers, told Brad Steiger:

"It is very hard to describe. I just see it. I feel it first in my mind, then I try to visualize it. When I begin to search for it, to visualize it, it will materialize in my mind."

While Bradley was testing Jonsson, Jonsson's eye suddenly lit up. Asked why, Jonsson replied:

"I just happened to see something. One of the (laughing) girls is talking about her legs. Yes, I see now that it is Betty (his wife). She is stroking her leg and asking Marilyn whether or not her leg is beginning to sunburn."

Bradley asked, "You mean you could see the girls, just like watching a moving picture of them?"

Jonsson replied, "*Ja* (yes), I could see them. I just wanted to know what they were doing and if they were all right."

Betty later confirmed what Jonsson saw.

Many people are clairvoyant to a lesser or greater degree without knowing it. This is one of the most common psychic abilities. Often, it manifests spontaneously or involuntarily.

A person who sees a spirit, whether a departed person, a nature or elemental like a dwarf or fairy, or the astral body of a person, is a clairvoyant.

I am of the opinion that clairvoyant vision need not involve the use of sight. One can see a spirit or non-physical entity with eyes closed. I have seen ghosts on several occasions with my eyes closed. I have also talked to people with a similar experience.

So how does clairvoyance occur? What is its mechanism? No one has explained the phenomenon adequately. We can only speculate.

For me, clairvoyance can be explained by the fact that humans are composed of body and spirit. We have two types or levels of faculties, physical and spiritual.

When we see things in the physical world we use our external or physical sense of sight. When we see non-physical things we are simply using our spiritual or inner faculties.

Some people can shift their focus of attention voluntarily from the physical to the spiritual sense of sight. Neuroscientist Dr. Lawrence Leshan describes this as from "ordinary sensory reality" to "clairvoyant reality."

Most people do not have such deliberate capacity. It happens spontaneously.

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INDIA Hicks Island Living products

Home is an island

ISLAND LIVING—THE SEA, THE sky, the sand, the tranquility—is a reality to India Hicks, daughter of famed '70s interior designer David Hicks.

Traveling around the world as model, author, and designer, defined the style of the goddaughter of the Prince of Wales. This style is evident in her hotel, restaurant, and boutique store in the West Indies.

Now Hicks has collaborated with Crabtree and Evelyn in a line of ultranatural products for men and women.

The India Hicks Island Living collection reflects her sense of style influenced by a life spent in London, Paris, and New York.

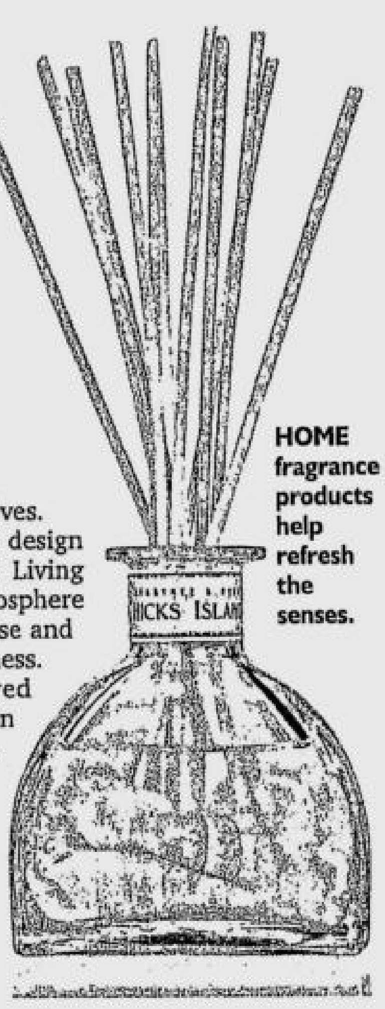
The India Hicks Island Living bath, body, and home products were developed from island-inspired ideas and herbal potions passed down from generation to generation.

The bath and body products contain all-natural formulations that use the power and energy of plant extracts to fine-tune mind and body.

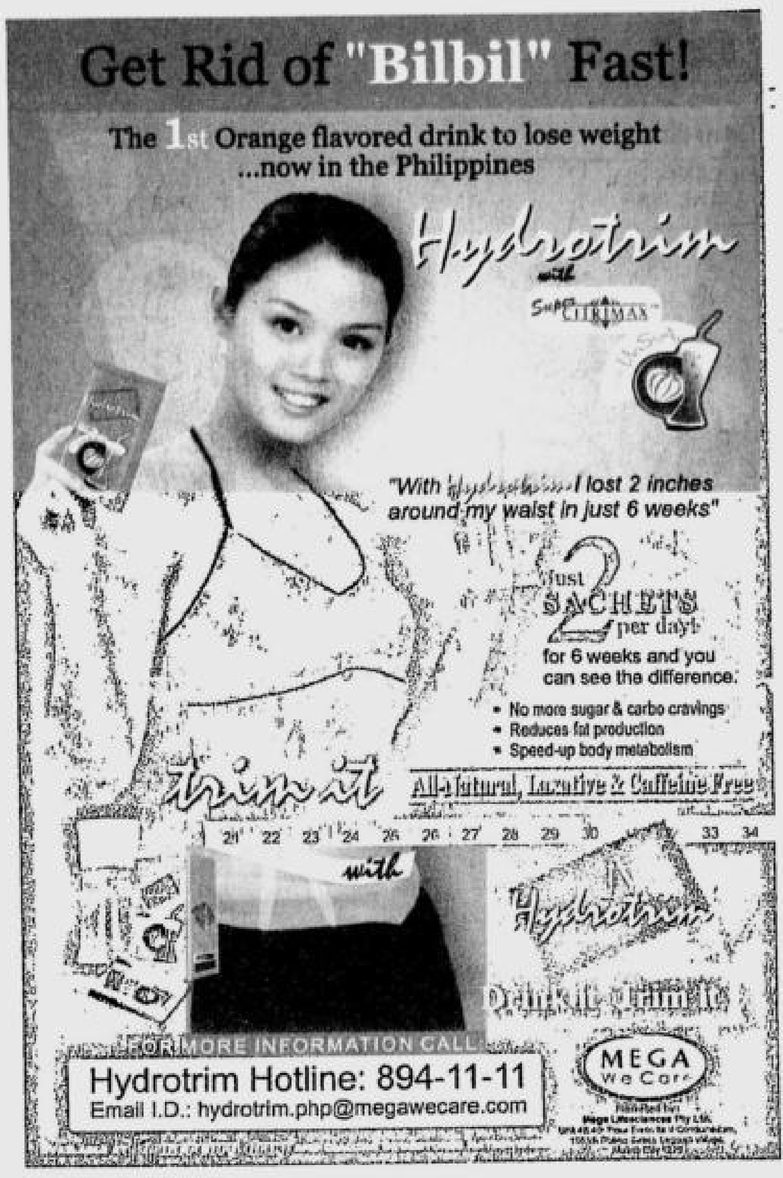
Home fragrance products help refresh the senses and re-establish a connection with the physical, emotional, and spiritual selves.

The simple and elegant design of the India Hicks Island Living collection creates the atmosphere of a period plantation house and exudes a sense of timelessness.

Inspired by hand-colored coral prints in London in 1756, the India Hicks Island Living collection is a whole new take on natural eco-chic lifestyle. Sales from the products also help fund the charitable and ecological causes Hicks believes in.



HOME fragrance products help refresh the senses.



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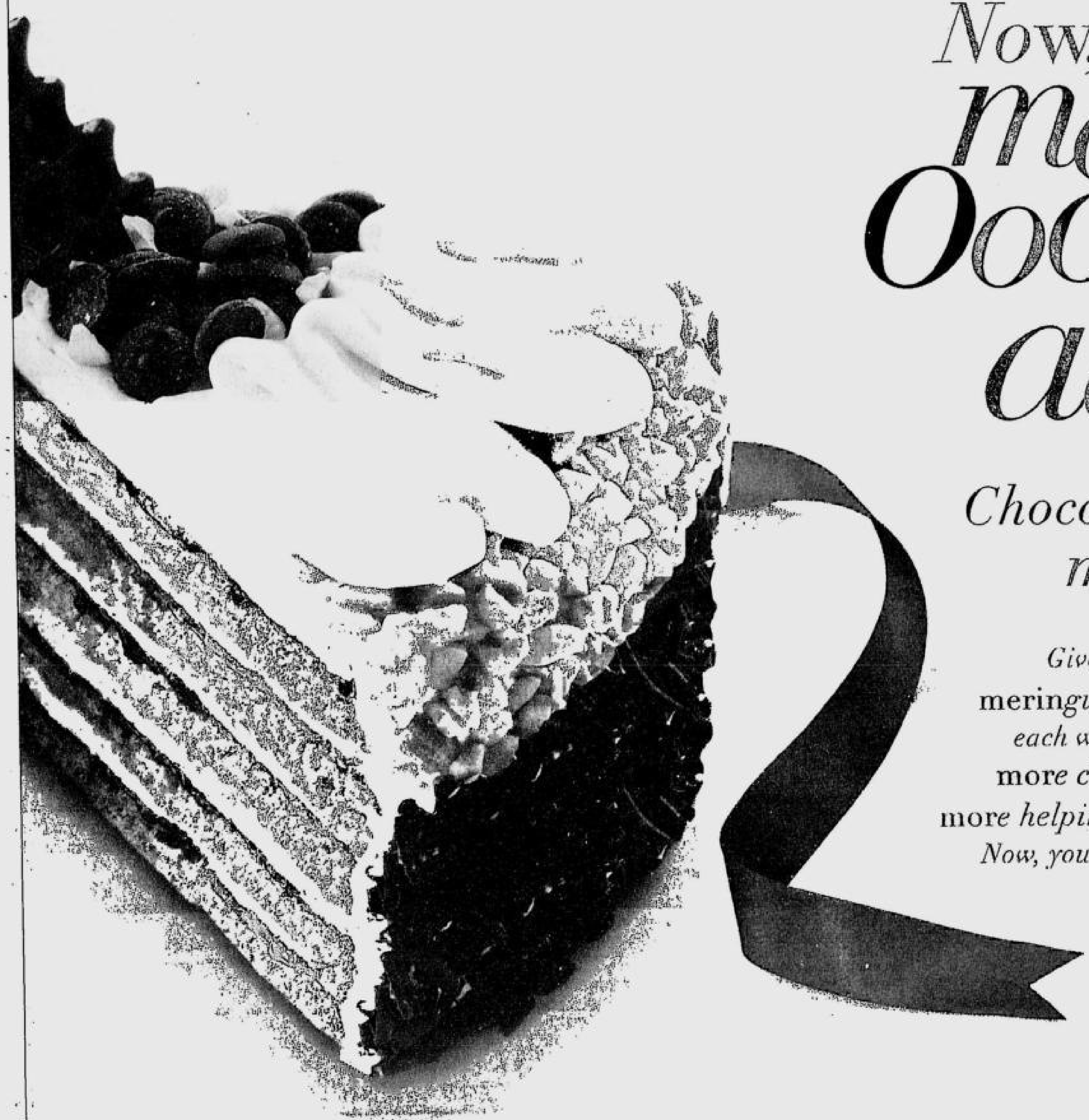

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more aaaahs.

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more chocolate *and nestled between*
more *helpings of exquisite* praline cream.
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It's *more* beautiful
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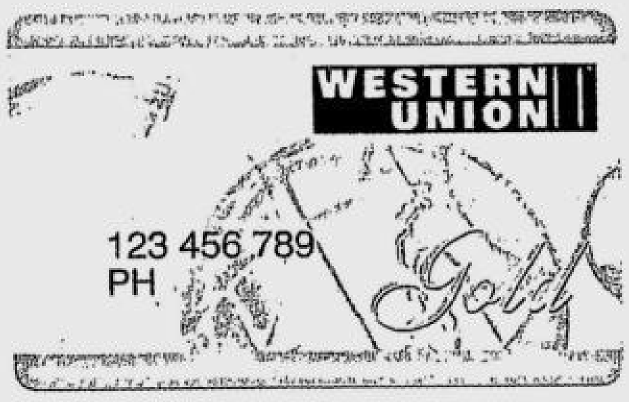

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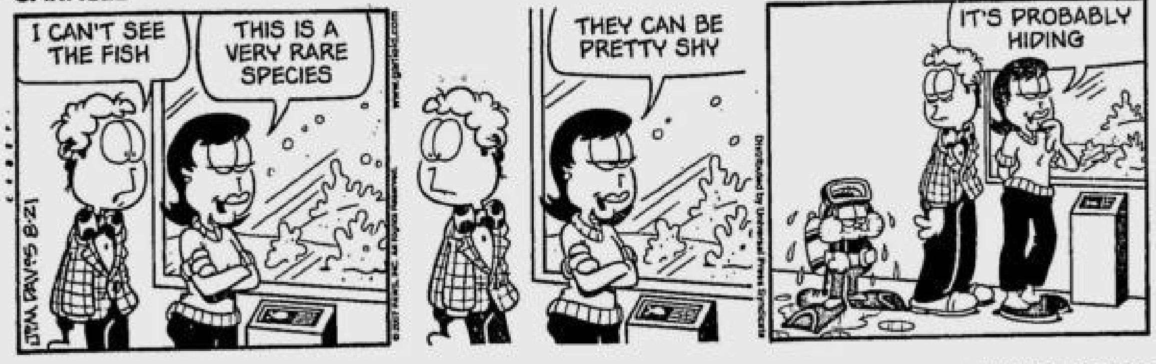
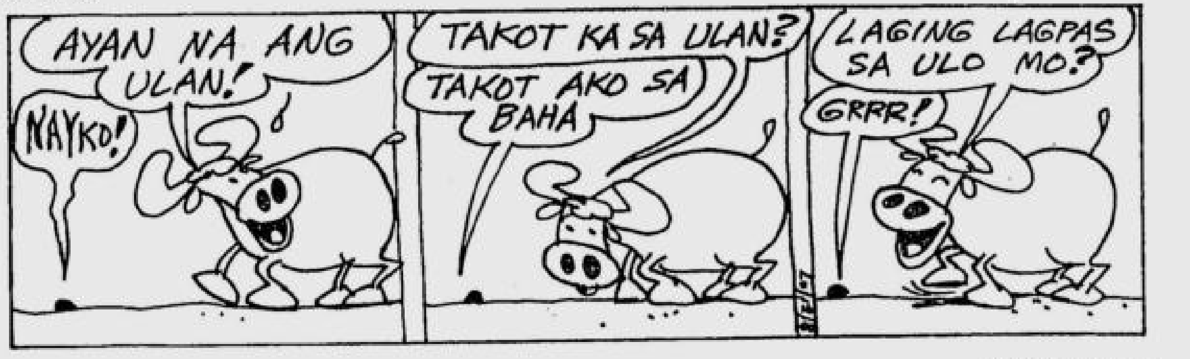
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


I CAN'T SEE THE FISH
THIS IS A VERY RARE SPECIES
THEY CAN BE PRETTY SHY
IT'S PROBABLY HIDING
JIM DAVIS 8-21

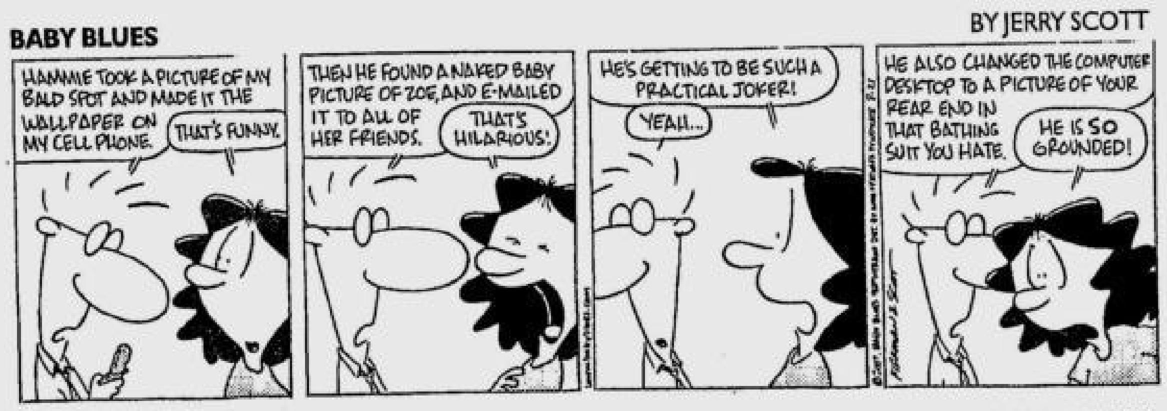
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AYAN NA ANG ULAN!
NAYKO!
TAKOT KA SA ULAN?
TAKOT AKO SA BAHA
LAGING LAGPAS SA ULO MO?
GRRR!

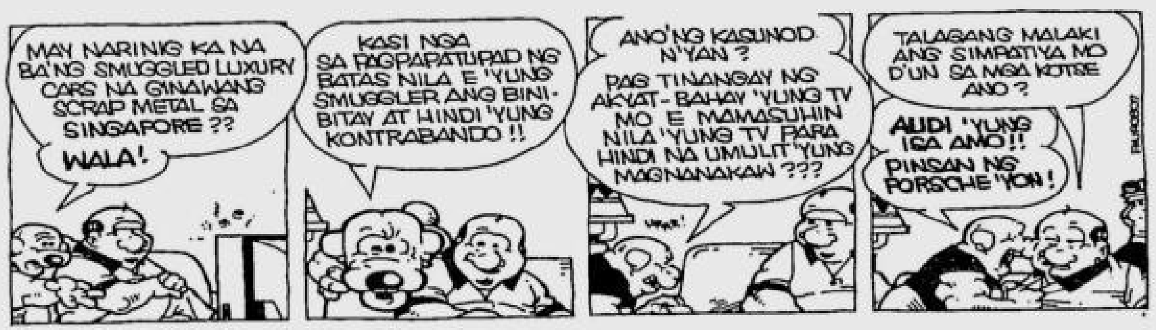
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE TOOK A PICTURE OF MY BALD SPOT AND MADE IT THE WALLPAPER ON MY CELL PHONE.
THAT'S FUNNY.
THEN HE FOUND A NAKED BABY PICTURE OF ZOE, AND E-MAILED IT TO ALL OF HER FRIENDS.
THAT'S HILARIOUS!
HE'S GETTING TO BE SUCH A PRACTICAL JOKER!
YEAH...
HE ALSO CHANGED THE COMPUTER DESKTOP TO A PICTURE OF YOUR REAR END IN THAT BATHING SUIT YOU HATE.
HE IS SO GROUNDED!

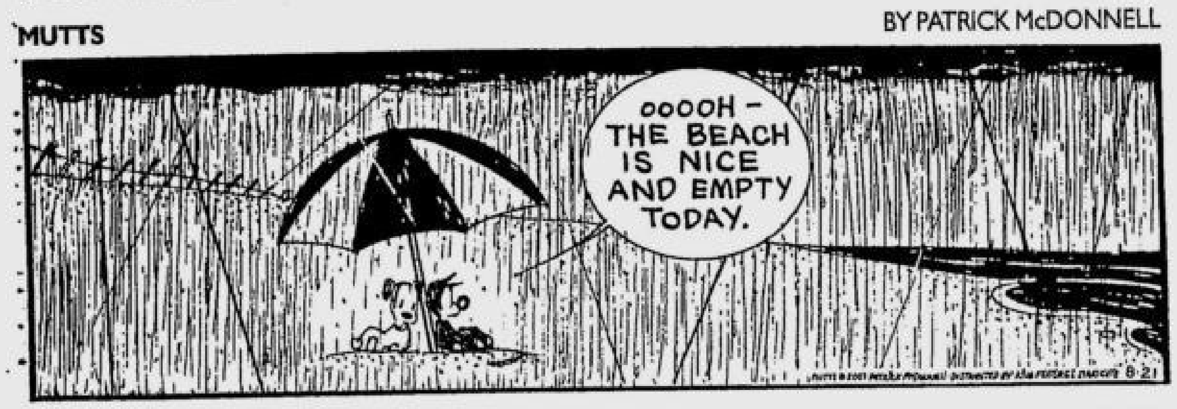
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAY NARINIG KA NA BA'NG SMUGGLED LUXURY CARS NA GINAWANG SCRAP METAL SA SINGAPORE ??
WALA!
KASI NGA SA PAGPAPATUPAD NG BATAS NILA E 'YUNG SMUGGLER ANG BINI-BITAY AT HINDI 'YUNG KONTRABANDO !!
ANO'NG KASUNOD N'YAN ?
PAG TINANGAY NG AKYAT-BAHAY 'YUNG TV MO E MAMASUHIN NILA 'YUNG TV PARA HINDI NA UMULIT 'YUNG MAGNANAKAW ???
TALAGANG MALAKI ANG SIMPATIYA MO D'UN SA MGA KOTSE ANO ?
AUDI 'YUNG ISA AMO!!
PINSAN NG PORSCHE 'YON!

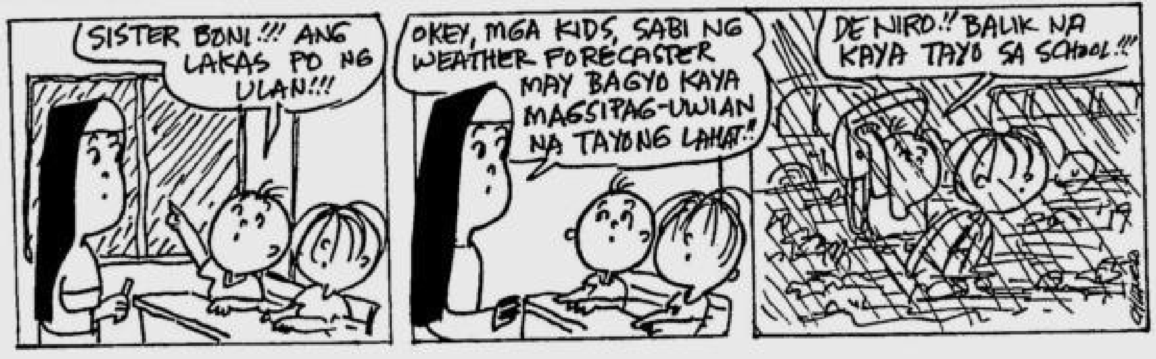
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OOOOH – THE BEACH IS NICE AND EMPTY TODAY.
8-21

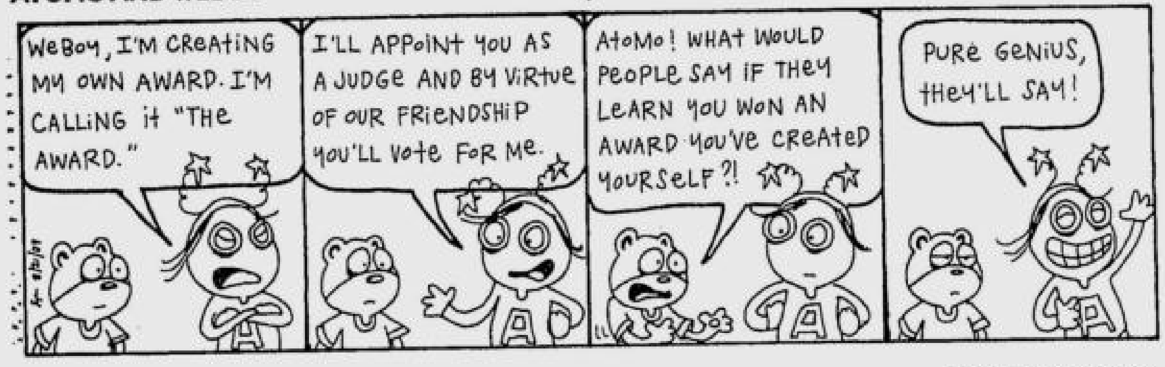
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SISTER BONI!!! ANG LAKAS PO NG ULAN!!!
OKEY, MGA KIDS, SABI NG WEATHER FORECASTER MAY BAGYO KAYA MAGSIPAG-UWIAN NA TAYONG LAHAT!
DE NIRO!! BALIK NA KAYA TAYO SA SCHOOL!!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

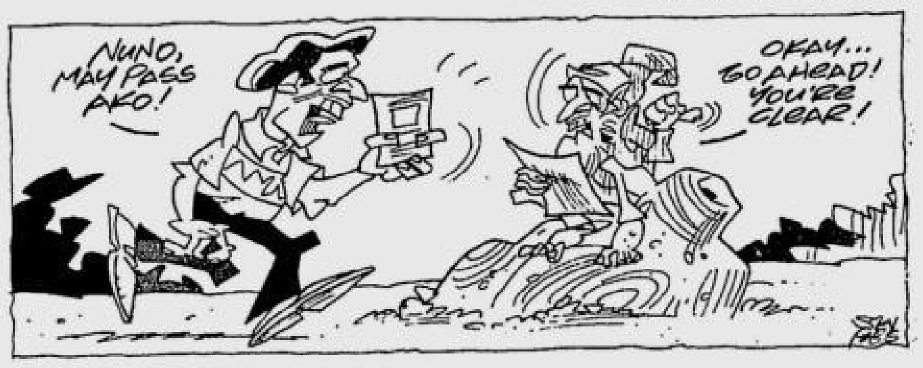
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeBoy, I'M CReAtiNG MY OWN AWARD. I'M CALLiNG it "The AWARD."
I'LL APPOiNt YOU AS A JUDGE AND BY ViRtue OF OUR FRiENDSHiP YOU'LL Vote FOR Me.
AtoMo! WHAt WOULD PeOPLe SAY iF THeY LeARN YOU WON AN AWARD YOU'Ve CReAteD YOURSeLF?!
PURe GeNiUS, theY'LL SAY!

DIVINE COMEDY

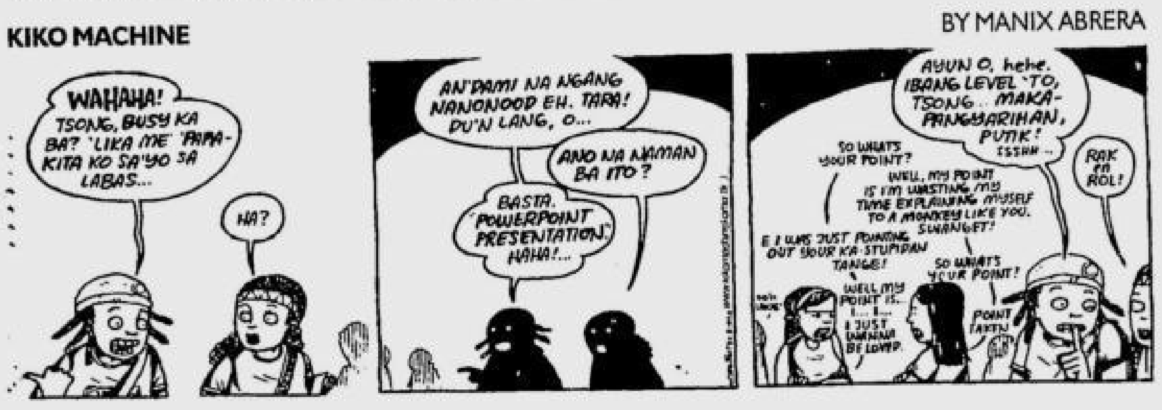
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

NAG-ISSUE NG OFFICIAL PASS ANG NUNO SA PUNSO PARA SA LAHAT NG MGA PASSERSBY. GINAWA NYA ITO DAHIL OLD-FASHIONED NA RAW ANG PAGSABI NG "TABI-TABI"


NUNO, MAY PASS AKO!
OKAY... GO AHEAD! YOU'RE CLEAR!

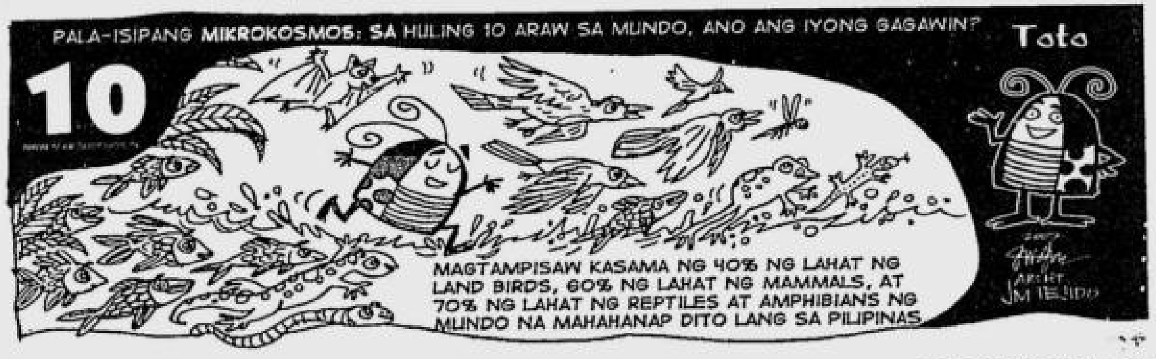
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


WAHAHA! TSONG, BUSY KA BA? 'LIKA ME 'PAPA-KITA KO SA'YO SA LABAS...
HA?
AN'DAMI NA NGANG NANONOOD EH. TARA! DU'N LANG, O...
ANO NA NAMAN BA ITO?
BASTA. "POWERPOINT PRESENTATION" HAHA!...
AYUN O, hehe. IBANG LEVEL 'TO, TSONG... MAKA-PANGYARIHAN, PUTIK!
ISSHH...
RAK EN ROL!
SO WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
WELL, MY POINT IS I'M WASTING MY TIME EXPLAINING MYSELF TO A MONKEY LIKE YOU. SWANGET!
E I WAS JUST POINTING OUT YOUR KA-STUPIDAN TANGE!
SO WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
WELL MY POINT IS... I... I JUST WANNA BE LOVED.
POINT TAKEN

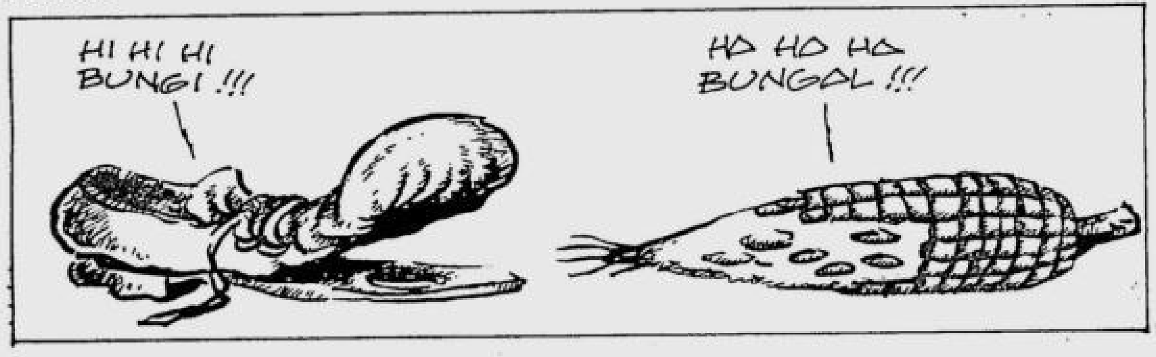
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PALA-ISIPANG MIKROKOSMOS: SA HULING 10 ARAW SA MUNDO, ANO ANG IYONG GAGAWIN?
10
Toto
MAGTAMPISAW KASAMA NG 40% NG LAHAT NG LAND BIRDS, 60% NG LAHAT NG MAMMALS, AT 70% NG LAHAT NG REPTILES AT AMPHIBIANS NG MUNDO NA MAHAHANAP DITO LANG SA PILIPINAS

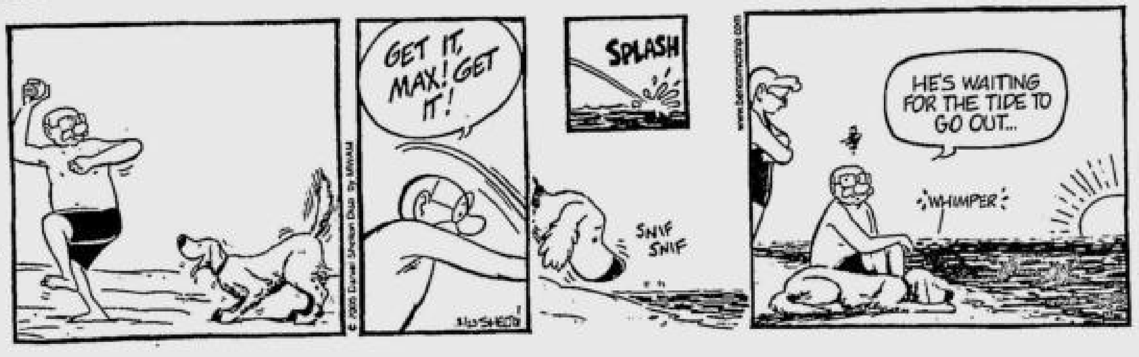
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HI HI HI BUNGI !!!
HA HO HA BUNGAL !!!

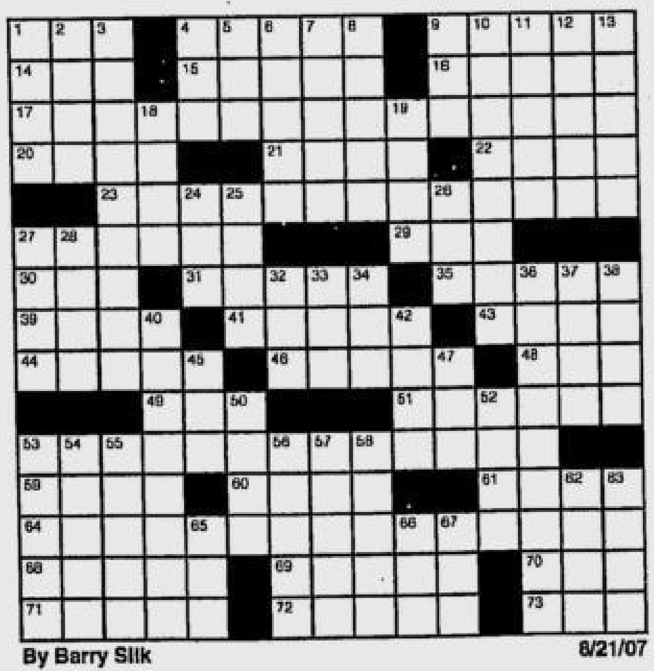
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GET IT, MAX! GET IT!
SPLASH
SNIF SNIF
HE'S WAITING FOR THE TIDE TO GO OUT...
WHIMPER

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Sharp turn
4 Threshing refuse
9 Scrapbook
14 Hockey great Bobby
15 Plentiful
16 Thanks to Yves
17 Tom Hanks film
20 Writer Rice
21 Unsatisfactory, as an excuse
22 Lion's pride
23 Spencer Tracy film
27 Opposite of ignorance
29 Hoo leader?
30 Popular ISP
31 Stubble cutter
35 Watson of the PGA
39 First word of "Jabberwocky"
41 Dynamite man
43 Quick pace
44 Sri Lankan separatist
46 Tinseltown trophy
48 Comic Philips
49 Elmer, to Bugs
51 QB Donovan
53 Audie Murphy film
59 Milky gem
60 Actress Jessica
61 Way off
64 Meryl Streep film, with "The"
68 Boxing venue
69 Thing of the past
70 Pouch
71 Popular locks
72 Links hazards
73 Take a crack at



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

8/21/07

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2 Kind of horse or fist?
3 4-run blast
4 Mouse catcher
5 Med. plan choice
6 Winesap or Northern Spy
7 Dog doggers
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Monday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	T	T	■	P	O	S	T	S	■	K	N	E	W
O	C	H	O	■	E	T	H	E	L	■	N	O	N	O
T	H	E	R	E	T	H	E	R	E	■	O	T	T	O
H	E	N	N	A	■	E	D	I	E	■	C	R	E	D
■	■	■	■	T	A	R	S	■	P	O	K	E	R	S
H	O	B	B	I	T	S	■	W	E	L	K	■	■	■
A	M	O	U	N	T	■	S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E
R	A	N	D	■	■	F	I	B	■	■	O	M	E	R
P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	■	R	A	C	I	E	R
■	■	■	Y	O	W	L	■	T	A	L	K	E	R	S
H	U	M	B	L	E	■	S	E	G	O	■	■	■	■
E	S	A	U	■	L	A	O	S	■	O	A	S	E	S
F	U	N	D	■	F	I	F	T	Y	F	I	F	T	Y
T	R	O	D	■	T	R	I	E	D	■	D	A	R	N
S	P	R	Y	■	H	E	A	R	S	■	E	X	E	C

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8/21/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're dynamic and action-oriented. Your enterprising optimism helps you get your own way. You need lots of mental stimulation. In turn, you entertain others with your clever wit. (But you don't suffer fools gladly!) Education will advance your career because, although you're versatile, you generally capitalize on one main skill. Your year ahead focuses on partnerships and close friendships.

Birthdate of: Kenny Rogers, singer; Kim Cattrall, actress; Josh Harrington, pro BMX rider.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Many of you will feel increased responsibilities for children today. Others will want to get in touch with what you think you should be truly doing with your life.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Domestic responsibilities have your attention today. Discussions with a parent could be significant. You want to repair or secure your home in some way so that you feel good about everything.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might not feel particularly lighthearted today, but you're definitely in the mood to do some serious long-range planning. Advice from someone older can help you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Financial responsibilities might concern you today. If shopping, you'll want to buy something practical that will last for a long time.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're taking your responsibilities very seriously now. You have no time for whatever is not truly important. "Just the facts, ma'am."

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's important to let go of what is not really necessary. Streamline your life. Say goodbye to people, possessions and places that are now history.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Talk to someone who is older and more experienced than you. This person's advice will be helpful. Save yourself time by learning from the mistakes of others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a time of serious responsibility. You see quite clearly now what is working in your life and what is not. It's a time of professional advancement. You're concerned with making future plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): In the big picture, this is very much a time of preparation in your life. Focus on learning something or getting further training and education.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're ready to assume important responsibilities today. You won't waste time on frivolous details. You just want to get the job done. This is an excellent time to wrap up things or finish what is already on your plate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're quite serious about relationships now. In fact, relationships that aren't working will quite likely fall by the wayside. However, relationships that are working will be supportive to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You will derive much satisfaction from working hard at something today. You want a sense of accomplishment. (If you finish any tasks, you'll feel satisfied and productive.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				8		6		1
		1					4	
7						3		2
9		3			4			
5		8				1		7
			9			5		4
2		9						6
	7					9		
3		4		7				

Difficulty Level ★★

8/21

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

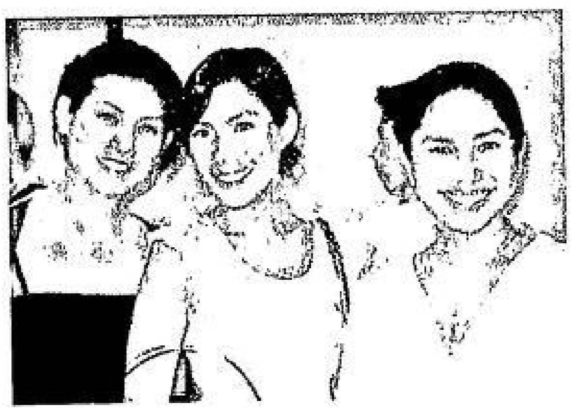
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	4	5	8	9	1	6	7
7	1	8	4	6	3	2	9	5
9	6	5	2	1	7	3	4	8
6	4	2	3	9	5	8	7	1
8	7	3	6	4	1	9	5	2
1	5	9	7	2	8	4	3	6
4	3	1	8	7	6	5	2	9
2	8	7	9	5	4	6	1	3
5	9	6	1	3	2	7	8	4

Difficulty Level ★

ARTIST Jason Montinola with Pastor Joey Bonifacio and handsome Martin Honasan


TINA and Michelle Pamintuan with Jean de Castro

MURRELL *famille*: Eileen Fabregas with James and William

PASTOR Steve Murrell; Arnel and Rola Vizmonte, and Deborah Murrell

An exhibit of choices

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE FOUR talented **Artists of the Hour**: David Bonifacio, Marie Bonifacio, Jonathan Murrell, and Jesse Puertollano

WHAT DO FOUR PEOPLE OF different ages, backgrounds and pursuits have in common, *palanggas*?

For these talented and gifted personas, it is "painting and a love for God and His creation," although each of them expresses it in his/her unique way, dahlings.

"Choices," a one of a kind special four-person (three men and one woman) painting exhibit offers the viewer a visual treat—four different artistic interpretations of the world.

Mother and son **Marie** and **David Bonifacio**, in paint-spattered jeans, spend Saturday mornings surrounded by oils and acrylics.

The 23-year-old David's work in oil, "Places: Imagined and Real," reflects the wonderful colors of his imagination. This Ateneo de Manila University graduate finds complete satisfaction in helping young people, raising funds and being active in Habitat for Humanity and the Real Life Foundation.

Marie, a University of the Philippines Broadcast Communication graduate and writer, rediscovered painting after two major operations. "I believe that who you are within comes out in your art, so I like to paint with a peaceful, positive spirit."

She works with acrylics, fascinated by the transparencies of pure color. Her "Peace and Passion" has a serene, uplifting, watercolor-like aura. Eight of her paintings were snapped up on opening night faster than you can bat an eyelash, *palanggas*.

Student **Jonathan Murrell**, at 17, is the youngest in the group. His oil paintings are reminiscent of the old European Masters. The American, who was born and has lived here for most of his life, loves *adobo*!

Guided by art teacher **Jesse Puertollano**, some of Jonathan's oils have gone to art collectors in the United States and Japan. His latest "Waterscapes" series inspired by his travels is definitely a visual treat, dahlings.

Jesse is the master teacher and professional artist. Multiawarded as an artist and multitalented (actor, director, production designer and instructor), he is a fantastic product of the UP Fine Arts, no less, dahlings.

Those of us who believe life is a three-ring circus will find his "Circus" series in oil very interesting. Through his vivid renditions of acrobats and jugglers, you will probably see your multitasking self.

This is the first time this awesome talented group is exhibiting together. Check out the show. For viewing, call 890-3988, or contact Jesse at 0921-3184072.

You won't regret it, *palanggas*. They are all winners.

Star-studded

"Star light, star bright, make a wish and win tonight" came to mind as *moi* watched the Timezone's 4th Celebrity Open at the Glorietta Activity Center, *palanggas*.

For this year's Celebrity Open, 48 stars worked the Timezone machines, determined to win, *natch*.

Starting with a bang, dahlings, celebrity teams raced to the popular Timezone games: Air Hockey, Superbike, Super Trivia, Daytona, DDR Supernova and, everyone's favorite, Slam n' Jam.

The crowd cheered, yelled and applauded for their favorite team. With the crowd's shouts and the machines' deafening sounds, *moi* could hardly think straight, *palanggas*.

Champion of the Timezone's 4th Celebrity Open was the White Team, composed of celebrities **Anthony Suntay**, handsome **Vince Hizon** and his eye-catching wife **Shaan H.**, **Jinno Rufino**, **Rob Johnson**, and Fiamma's **Paolo Trillo**.

Each received a round-trip ticket to Boracay with hotel accommodation; P12,000 worth of Timezone powercards; and, *naturellement*, and tons of other prizes, *palanggas*.

Well, dahlings, lots of stars got their wishes that night.

The event was made possible by Skechers, Fitness First, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Goldilocks, Metro Gaisano, Oreo, Go Nuts Donuts, Lipovitan, Ayala Cinemas, and Ayala Center, plus, plus.

Unique store

Imagine, *palanggas*, some of the country's most brilliant and creative minds coming together in a *tres* unique store concept where they get to showcase their best!

Filipino skills and talents will have their grand showing at the posh Greenbelt 5 later this year.

Moi was there to witness eight awesome creative geniuses give life to "Myth." Our top designers and style experts gathered at the Greenbelt 3 lobby for the preview of this new lifestyle boutique, Myth, representing several expressions of the diverse and *tres* unique Philippine style.

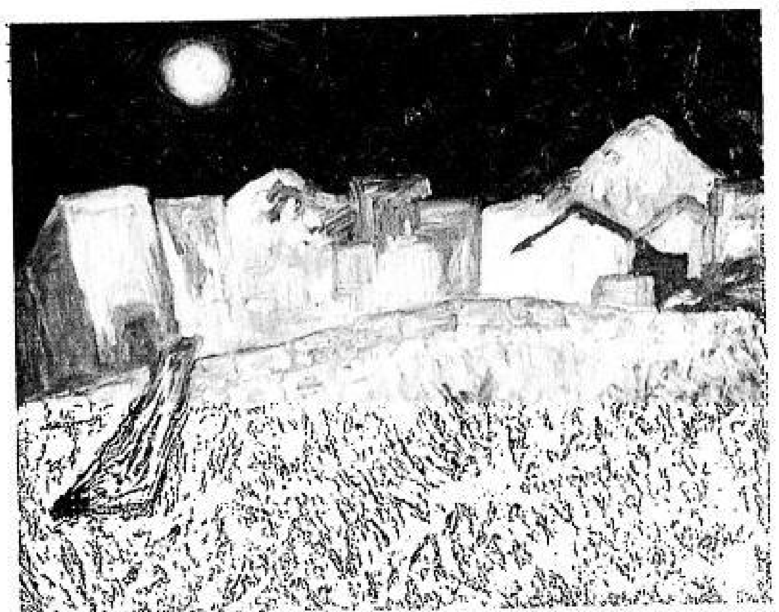
The boutique will have highly fashionable, ready-to-wear creations and complementary lifestyle products, accessories and cosmetics.

Co-owner and visionary southern gentleman **Randy Ortiz** is joined by award-winning designer **Jojie Lloren**, chic **Dennis Lustico**, construction genius **Ivarluski Aseron**, and menswear expert **Joey Samson** in bringing to life this unique concept. Also getting the spotlight are individual beauty styles and hair care products by **Jing Monis** and a cosmetic and personal care line by **Henri Calayag**, no less.

Collaborating with Randy O. is painter **Doltz Pilar** who designed a stylish line of home accessories for a perfect mix of local fashion and art under one roof.

Moi spotted chit-chatting during cocktails Myth's owner, chic **Ruby Gan**; Ayala Mall's hot shot women; designers **Tonichi Nocom**, **Michi Calica** and **Tina Daniac**; plus others too often mentioned and all excited over fashion enthusiasts **Leah Puyat** and Firma owners **Chito Vijandre** and **Ricky Toledo**.

Brilliant **Robby Carmona** took a day off from directing to wear his "DJ" hat for the evening's entertainment, dahlings. Greater things to come at Myth, *palanggas*.

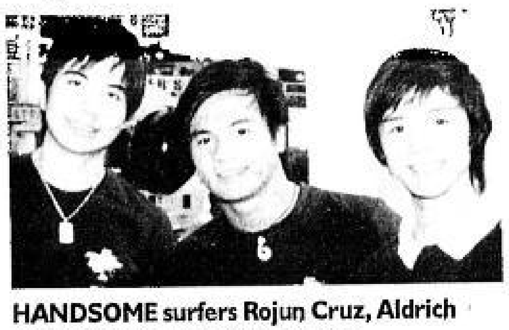

"A PATCH of Grass," by David Bonifacio

CONNIE Reyes Nubla, guest of honor ace photographer Alex Van Hagen, and Marie Bonifacio

JESSICA and Sherry Quinley

GRACE and Anne Yuen

TIMEZONE's Ronald Lucas and Lelet Volfango with Timezone's young president, good-looking Raffy Prats (center)


HANDSOME surfers Rojun Cruz, Aldrich Gatchalian and Sam Concepcion

BEAUTIFUL couple Vince and Shaan Hizon

LYN Ching and Suzie Abrera, winner in Super Trivia

SALVADOR and Vicky Fabregas

CRICKETTE Abello, Nene and Trisha Lichauco, and Michelle Abello

TOP interior designer Budji Layug and Royal Pineda

CARLO Rufino

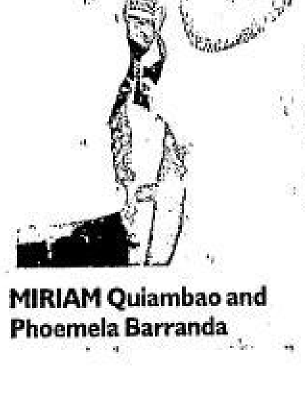
ADORABLE couple Jun and Kourtney Camcam

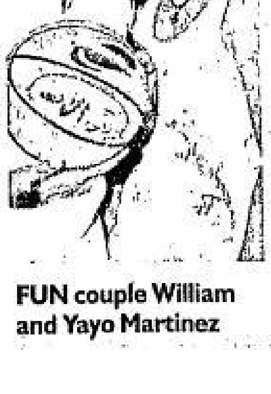
POPULAR designer Randy Ortiz

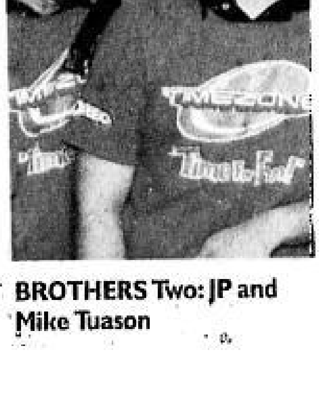
DESIGNER Joey Samson and top hair expert Henri Calayag

CLOSE pals: Mike Toledo and Louie Ysmael of the First Runner-up team

ANTHONY Suntay


MIRIAM Quiambao and Phoemela Barranda


FUN couple William and Yayo Martinez


BROTHERS Two: JP and Mike Tuason

MYTH owner Ruby Gan with AC Ocampo, Rowena Tomeldan, and Myrna Fernandez

Motherhood becomes her

From page C1

alcohol and colorants," said Ida Dizon, Nivea Baby group brand manager.

Knowing a baby's skin can be harmed by frequent bathing, overuse of soap, or certain climatic conditions, Nivea (Latin for Snow White), through careful research and experimentation, developed moisturizing products to help stimulate baby's skin to regenerate quickly its outer protective barrier.

Nivea Baby milk lotion has panthenol (pro-vitamin B5) to help moisturize the skin. The baby powder has zinc oxide to protect against skin irritation, chafing and itching. The shampoos, with chamomile and proteins, help cleanse sensitive scalp and fine hair.

Nivea Baby, which has been available in Europe for a long time, is now being introduced for the first time in Southeast Asia.

"We expect stiff competition in the baby skincare market here," said King. "But we are backed by clinically tested formulas and a trusted name... Since we made the baby products available in the market in April, we've been getting good response from the consumers. Sales are going very well."

Trusted by moms

Nobody understands babies' needs better than mothers. And Valdes believes the baby products she is endorsing will be able to take care of all the babies' skincare requirements.

"I feel more than proud to represent the brand I've trusted through the years," Valdes said. "I've been an avid Nivea user for years. I first fell in love with the brand when I discovered Nivea Q10 in Spain. It really (had) all the qualities I was looking for in a skincare product," she said.

Valdes is glad that Nivea has now come up with skin care products for kids. "I'm glad it's now available in the country finally. I'm very particular with the products I use for my children especially Athena because her skin is sensitive. Nivea Baby is mild, gentle and is infused with natural minerals to ensure baby's skin is healthy, which is very important to me."

Your Doctor Knows Best

Gerardo H. Cornelio MD, FPCP, FPSMO, FPSO

Question:

I have a lump in my armpit, which I noted a few months ago. Is this cancer?

Doctor Says...

All living things, including humans, are made up of cells. Our body is composed of billions of cells and comes in many different types—brain cells, skin cells, blood cells and so on. Group of cells form tissues, tissues form organs and organs form our bodily systems. In the order of things, our normal body cells grow, divide, and die. This is to ensure that the number of cells in each tissue stays constant. Most of our body cells divide only to replace old dying cells and repair injured cells. In certain conditions, cells grow and divide rapidly. Cancer begins when cells grow out of control—rapidly dividing to form mass of abnormal cells called tumor.

The rapid proliferation and uncontrolled division of cancer cells make it different from normal cells. Instead of dying, they outlive normal cells and continue to form new abnormal cells. Not all tumors are dangerous though. In some tumors, the cells stay in the same place and stop growing. These are benign tumors that do not spread to other parts of the body and are mostly non-life threatening. On the other hand, malignant tumor cells invade surrounding tissue and spread to other parts of the body that can eventually be fatal.

Today, millions all over the world live with cancer. The patient's chance of getting the disease (also known as risk factor) varies. Some risk factors can be changed and others you can't do anything about. Risk factors for cancer may include the individual's age, sex, medical and family history, exposure to cancer-causing factors in the environment, and lifestyle choices like smoking, alcohol use, diet and so on.

Signs and symptoms depend on where the cancer cells are located, the size of the tumor and how much they affect the surrounding organs. If the condition has already spread to other parts of the body, the patient may have various presentations. Local tumors may present with skin changes, lumps, sores or discharge. Some general symptoms are fever, fatigue, unexplained weight loss, and pain. These, however, can also be presenting symptoms of other diseases such as infection.

You should consult your doctor to determine if the lump you have is cancerous. He will get a detailed history, do a physical examination, may order imaging studies (similar to x-ray) and perform biopsy (removal and examination of tissue or fluid) from your lump. Your doctor can further explain these in detail.

Treatment of cancer will depend on the type of cancer, stage of the disease, as well as individual factors such as age and health status. The four major treatments for cancer include chemotherapy (giving drugs that are destructive to malignant cells and tissues), radiotherapy (exposing tumor to radiation), surgery (performing operation to remove cancer cells) and biologic therapies (stimulating the immune system to fight cancer). Treatment options are discussed with the patient, patient's family, and the rest of the cancer care team.

Early detection of cancer increases the chances of cure. For proper guidance, evaluation, and management, please consult your doctor.

Dr. Cornelio is an Internist/Medical Oncologist. He is an active consultant at the Philippine General Hospital. He holds clinics at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center and San Juan de Dios Hospital. Dr. Cornelio is also a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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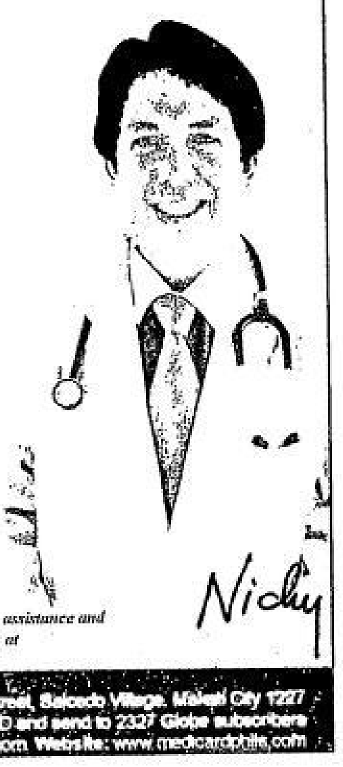
MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What is glaucoma and what are its symptoms?

Glaucoma is a progressive disease of the optic nerve that results in visual impairment. The optic nerve serves as a "fiberoptic cable" connecting eyeball to the visual cortex of the brain. Naturally, any damage to the nerve results in a corresponding visual field damage. It is important to note that the optic nerve does not regenerate itself and therefore visual field loss in glaucoma is permanent. Patients should be made aware that the treatment for glaucoma whether by medications, laser and/or surgery is not meant to restore lost vision but rather to maintain whatever vision is left. The key therefore is early diagnosis. There are many types of glaucomas and most will present in a painless fashion. Often a patient is not aware that he or she has glaucoma until significant vision is lost. This is because the visual field loss in glaucoma typically starts in the periphery where it is difficult to notice and progress to involve central vision over time. In other types of glaucoma the presentation can be extremely painful and dramatic when the pressure inside the eye rises quickly as in the case angle closure glaucoma or intraocular bleeding associated with trauma or even diabetes and hypertensive occlusive eye disease. As mentioned, glaucoma is often asymptomatic and is found only by complete examination by an ophthalmologist where detailed examination of the eye will reveal damaged looking optic nerve often but not always associated with elevated intraocular pressure. In others, symptoms can be in the form of afternoon headaches, eye pain or heaviness, halos around lights, glare and blurring vision. In severe cases patients will report frequent accidents such as missing a step in a stairway or bumping into things at home. If diagnosed early, glaucoma can be successfully treated. However, since glaucoma is usually chronic and progressive, patients must be informed of the need for continuous periodic follow-up to assess stability or progression of their condition. Moreover, relatives of glaucoma patients are at risk for the disease since it is often familial. This means that an ophthalmologist should also evaluated other immediate relatives when a family member is diagnosed to have primary glaucoma.

Ophthalmologist Dr. Rommel Bautista enlightens us regarding Glaucoma. Dr. Bautista, a medicine graduate of UERMMMC, took his residency training for a specialization in Ophthalmology at The Medical City and later went to California where he had his sub-specialization in Galucoma at Stanford University Medical Center. Currently he is a member of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology and the director of the Philippine Glaucoma Society. MEDICard members may visit him for consultations at Rm. 909 of The Medical City every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.



MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

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It's time to avoid Trans Fat!

It's time to get healthy! It's time to be aware that some of the most common food you eat have something very bad for you: Trans Fat.

What is Trans Fat?

There are four kinds of fats: monounsaturated fat, polyunsaturated fat, saturated fat, and Trans Fat. Monounsaturated fat and polyunsaturated fat are the "good" fats. Saturated fat is the "bad" fat people have long been warned to avoid. Trans Fat however is the worst kind of fat.

Proven Unhealthy

From the World Health Organization to the U.S. Food and Drug Authority, there have been many recent warnings about the health problems Trans Fat can cause. In an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine on April 13, 2006, the researchers detail evidence linking Trans Fat consumption to increased risk of coronary heart disease, sudden cardiac death, and diabetes. Trans Fat from partially hydrogenated oils have harmful effects on blood lipids, promote inflammation, and cause blood-vessel abnormalities, all of which are risk factors for heart disease.

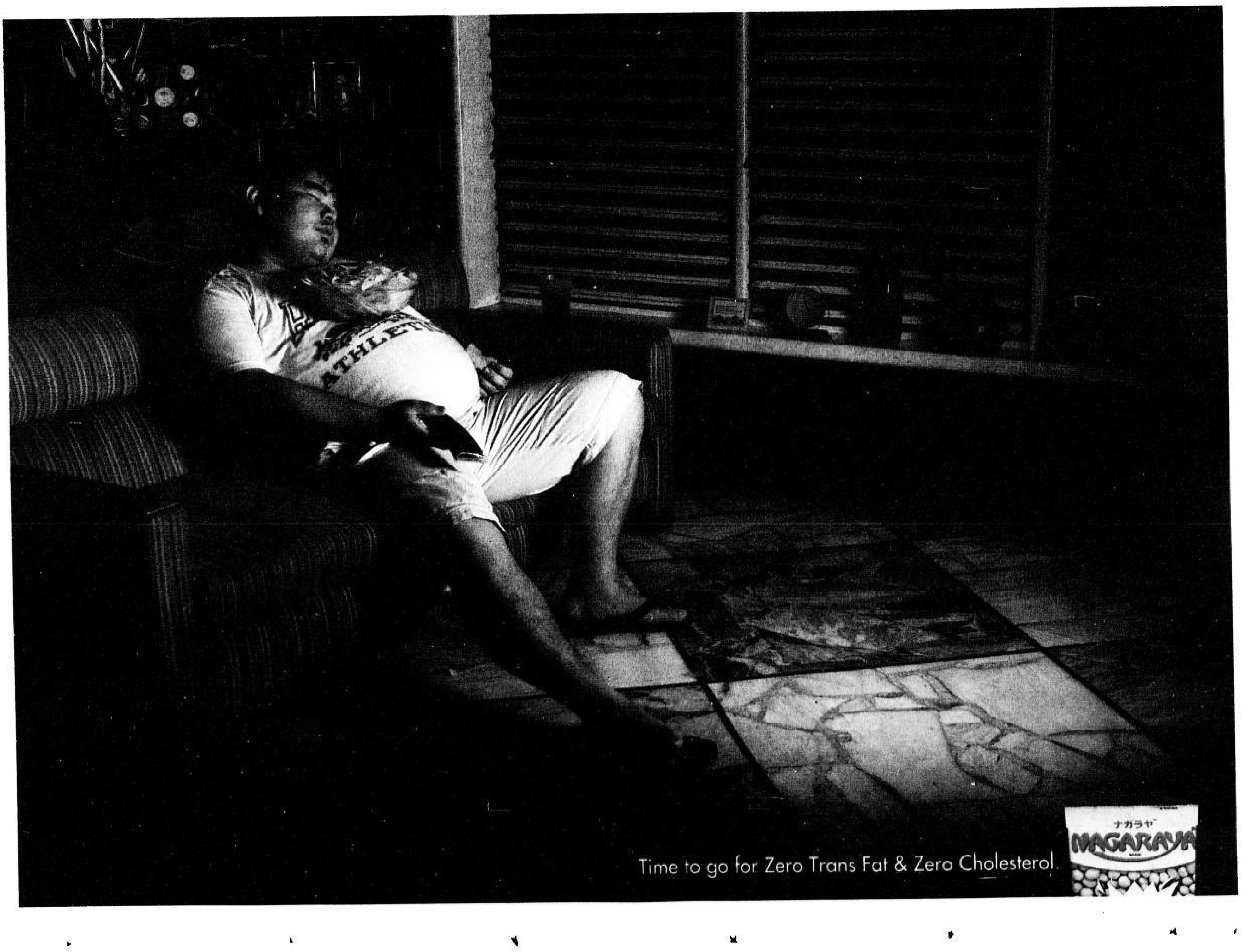
Common Foods with Trans Fat

The majority of Trans Fat can be found in cookies, crackers, snack foods, fried fast food, doughnuts, pastries, baked goods, and other processed foods made with or fried in partially hydrogenated oils.

Try to avoid Trans Fat as much as you can. Read the labels of the packaged food you buy. Look at the ingredient list. Don't eat any product which has the words "partially hydrogenated" or "shortening" on the ingredient list.

Go for Zero Trans Fat

Look for products that say they are "Zero Trans Fat", like Nagaraya Cracker Nuts. Unlike other snack foods that are fried in partially hydrogenated fat, Nagaraya is roasted. This longtime favorite snack guarantees only crunchy goodness and nutrition...with none of the bad Trans Fat.


Time to go for Zero Trans Fat & Zero Cholesterol.
ナガラヤ
NAGARAYA

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See posters for details
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Angel Locsin takes a break

ACTRESS ANGEL Locsin's sportswear line is set to be launched at SM malls soon.

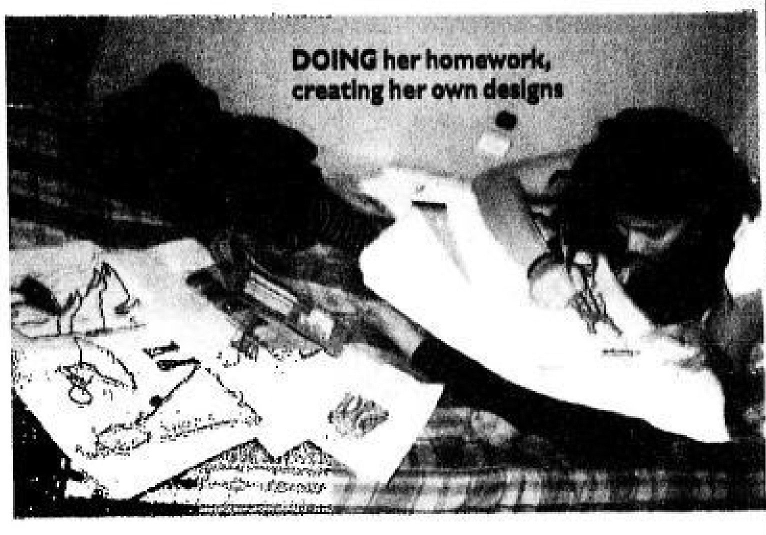
To prepare for this, the actress flew to England for a two-week intensive course in fashion design at the London College of Fashion.

During her first week, Angel lived at the Henry VIII Hotel in Piccadilly. She transferred to the Maria Assumpta Convent on Kensington Square on her eighth day, according to manager Becky Aguila.

"I bought her school stuff and brought them to her classroom on her first day in school. The following day she was on her own," said Aguila. "But before I flew back to the Philippines, I made sure she was in a nice and secure place."

What did she do during lulls in her schedule? Photos on this page tell us. *Marinel R. Cruz*

CLOWNING around on Oxford St.


DOING her homework, creating her own designs

IN FRONT of Buckingham Palace.

AFTER a trip to Harrods

SHOPPING...

... AND more shopping

'A Love Story' shows Aga-Maricel chemistry

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

IT WAS SUCH A DELIGHT TO SEE AGA **Muhlach** and **Maricel Soriano** together on the big screen for the first time in "A Love Story." The fact that they've never been in a movie together came as a surprise because their chemistry is undeniable.

Morning and Maria ought to do more films together. It seemed like they've been working together for years, like an old married couple who effortlessly complement each other's actions in every way.

They both ran the whole gamut of emotions without overdoing it. Their brilliant portrayals showed that they have a bottomless reservoir of sensibilities.

As his pet name suggests, Aga's acting is fresh and new like morning in every movie he makes. And Maria is truly the Diamond Star that she is with her radiance on screen.

Being a lover of romantic films, it takes quite a lot to move me in such a way that this film has. It didn't sugarcoat love and pain in all its forms. It deals not just with the love story of a man, wife and mistress but also of father and son and more importantly, the love affair we have with ourselves.

The movie is not your typical love triangle. It explores all angles and dimensions of how our heart's choices can oftentimes cause us self-inflicted pain.

Direk **Maryo J. delos Reyes** has outdone himself again. He brought out the inner workings of every character seamlessly. Although the movie was quite long, Aga and Maricel's superb performance will make you lose track of time. Angelica Panganiban seemed too young for the role but nevertheless gave a fairly convincing performance.

"A Love Story" is for the loveless, loverless, lovelorn and the love-struck. It takes you to all the rooms in your heart—even those you thought you have closed for good.

Another love story

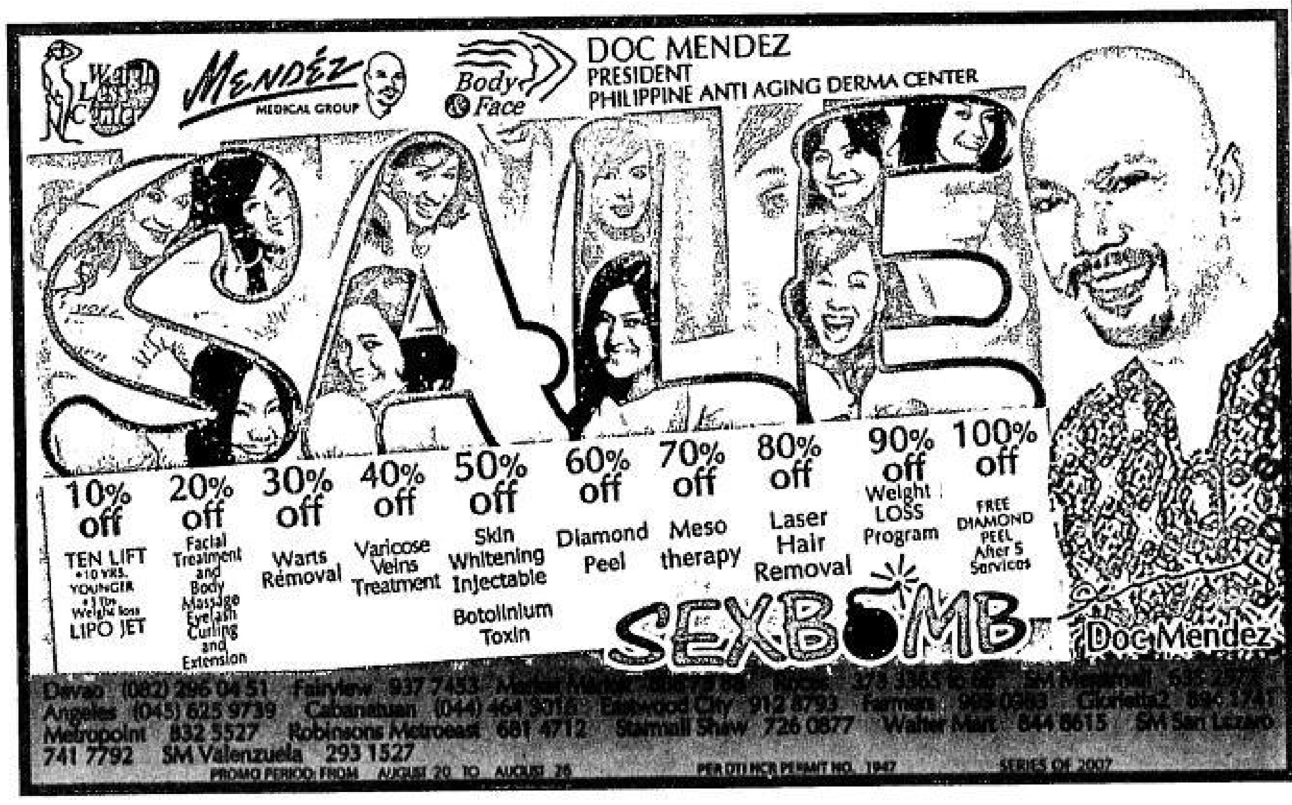
SPEAKING of "A Love Story," I watched it with my fab sis **Vicki Belo** and her beau **Dr. Hayden Kho Jr.** Seeing them so giddy together made the movie seem like it had a double program.

I've never seen Vicki any happier. Even Hayden's child-like *kakulitan* which took a lot for Vicki to get used to, endears him to her all the more.

Vicki and I have both been in the center of too many show biz controversies. In fact, it was one controversial episode in Vicki's life that made us instant friends.

Since then, we have looked out for each other. I don't know how I would

A LOVE/ D2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PROMO PERIOD: FROM AUGUST 20 TO AUGUST 26 PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 1947 SERIES OF 2007

SHANG CINEPLEX
① BOURNE ULTIMATUM MTRCB PG-13 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
② A LOVE STORY MTRCB PG-13 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
③ BOURNE ULTIMATUM MTRCB PG-13 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
④ RUSH HOUR 3 MTRCB PG-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE SURF'S UP (GP) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
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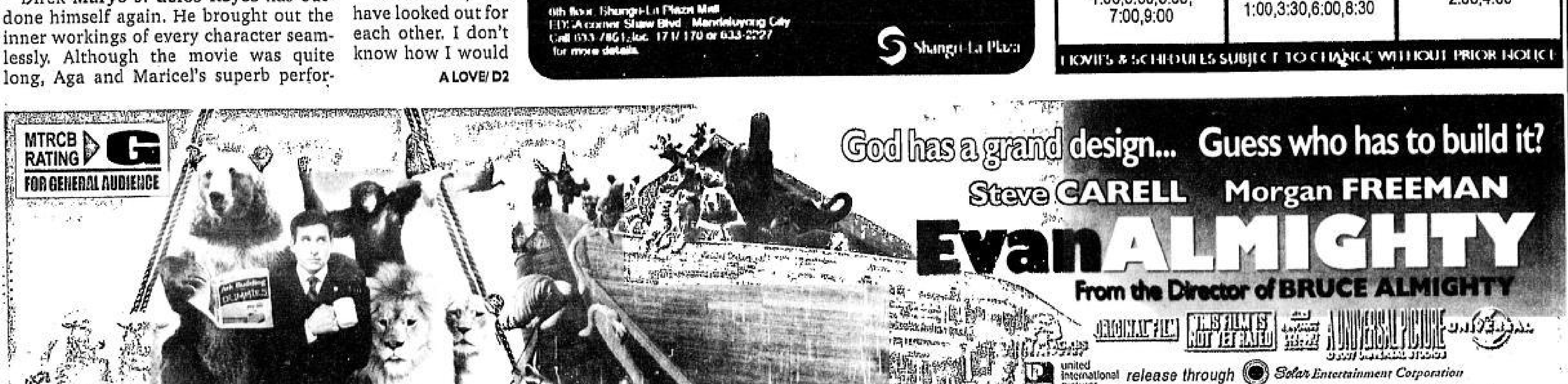
RUSH HOUR 3 PG13 1:40,3:50,6:00,8:10,10:20
BOURNE ULTIMATUM PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30
A LOVE STORY PG13 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10
SURF'S UP G 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00
BOURNE ULTIMATUM PG13 1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30
SURF'S UP G 2:00,4:00
MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE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God has a grand design... Guess who has to build it?
Steve CARELL Morgan FREEMAN
Evan ALMIGHTY
From the Director of BRUCE ALMIGHTY
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GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX:P160 130 Indie Sine / 100 632-9118

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM • THX
2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

2 A LOVE STORY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 MOONRISE FILM FESTIVAL
12:00 2:20 4:40 6:30 8:20

4 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 RATATOUILLE
12:00 2:20 4:40

6 RUSH HOUR 3
12:50 3:00 5:10

7 RISE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

8 SURF'S UP
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

9 OUIJA
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

10 RUSH HOUR 3
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 A LOVE STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 OUIJA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 SURF'S UP
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 RUSH HOUR 3
12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 10:00

5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00

6 RISE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 MORENO
1:00 2:40 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00

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Don't miss this PROVOCATIVE film about BISEXUALS who fall in love! From Cris Pablo, director of Queer FilmS like DUDA, BATHHOUSE and METLOGS!

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1 A LOVE STORY
12:35 3:15 5:55 8:35

2 A LOVE STORY
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

3 A LOVE STORY
10:25 1:05 3:45 6:25

4 RATATOUILLE 11:00 1:05 3:10
OUIJA 5:20 7:15 9:10

5 RISE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 RUSH HOUR 3
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

7 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
11:00 1:25 3:50 6:20 9:00

8 SURF'S UP
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price:P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 RISE
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 OUIJA

PIONEER

Ticket Price:P100 / P110 687-5378

1 A LOVE STORY
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30

3 RUSH HOUR 3
12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40

4 SURF'S UP
12:25 2:30 4:35 6:40 8:40

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price:P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 LICENSE to WED
4 A LOVE STORY

LIPA

Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SINKING of JAPAN
4 CASA

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price:P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

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2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

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2 A LOVE STORY
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 RUSH HOUR 3

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Ticket Price: P.90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

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2 A LOVE STROY
3 LICENSE to WED
4 SURF'S UP

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2 THE SIMPSONS
3 LICENSE to WED

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2 A LOVE STORY
3 LICENSE to WED
4 A LOVE STORY
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6 SURF'S UP

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1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SURF'S UP
5 BUG
6 RESERVE

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1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 OSS 117 / A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 CAPE KARMA
6 SURF'S UP

SURF'S UP
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SURF'S UP ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 18 (3:00PM) – "SURF'S UP" Mall Show
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*Meet & Greet / Photo Op with Cody
*Surfing Clinic by Stonemoney
*Games and Raffle
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AUGUST 19 (3:00 – 6:00PM) – "Surf's Up" Meet & Greet Cody
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- The Hollywood Reporter

Blades of Glory is a comedic farce that takes on the world of figure skating. The film stars Will Ferrel (*Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*) as Chazz Michaels and Jon Heder (*Benchwarmers*) as Jimmy MacElroy, two competitive figure skaters who, banned from competing in the men's single competition a few years back, are convinced to compete in the pairs skating category - with each other!

Watch how Chazz and Jimmy pull it off and win the coveted championship exclusively at your favorite SM Cinemas nationwide.

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

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T-REX Admission Price P200	2:30PM 7:00PM
ANT BULLY Admission Price P250	12:30PM

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 BLADES OF GLORY
5 RISE
6 A LOVE STORY

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BOURNE ULTIMATUM
CINEMA 2
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1 A LOVE STORY
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
5 A LOVE STORY
6 RISE
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 RUSH HOUR 3
9 OUIJA
10 SURF'S UP
11 BLADES OF GLORY
12 A LOVE STORY

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 A LOVE STORY
5 OUIJA
6 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
7 RATATOUILLE
8 RISE
9 RUSH HOUR 3
10 A LOVE STORY
11 SIMPSONS MOVIE
12 BLADES OF GLORY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 RATATOUILLE
6 RISE
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 A LOVE STORY
9 OUIJA
10 HARRY POTTER 5
11 BLADES OF GLORY
12 SINKING OF JAPAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 RATATOUILLE
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 A LOVE STORY
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 RISE
7 BLADES OF GLORY
8 HARRY POTTER 5
9 OUIJA
10 SURF'S UP

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 RISE
4 A LOVE STORY
5 SURF'S UP
6 A LOVE STORY

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 OUIJA
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
5 BLADES OF GLORY
6 RUSH HOUR 3
7 SURF'S UP
8 A LOVE STORY
9 RISE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 SURF'S UP

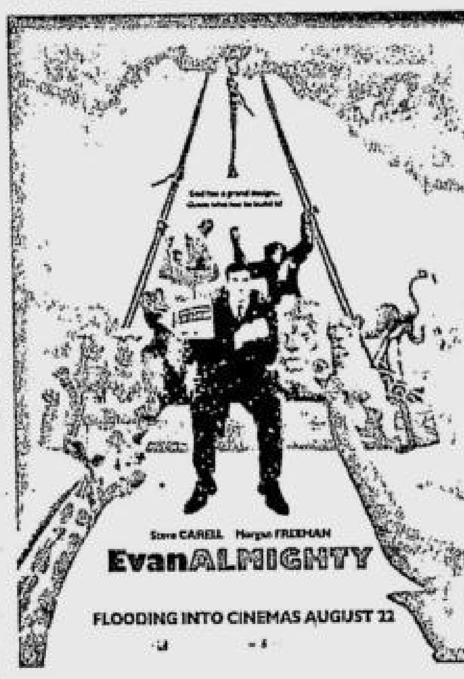
SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RISE
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 THREE
6 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
7 A LOVE STORY
8 BLADES OF GLORY
9 RATATOUILLE
10 OUIJA
11 SURF'S UP
12 A LOVE STORY

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

movietime Coming Soon



From the directors of "Bruce Almighty" comes another story of unexpected apparation.

Former newscaster Evan Baxter (Steve Carell), who is now elected Congressman, leaves Buffalo behind and shepherds his family to suburban Northern Virginia. There, his life turns upside down when God (Morgan Freeman) appears and commands him to build an ark because flood is coming. Evan shuns it at first, but eventually, his faith leads people into a remarkable realization.

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LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 RISE
7 OUIJA
8 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 OUIJA
4 LICENSE TO WED
5 A LOVE STORY
6 BLADES OF GLORY

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 BLADES OF GLORY
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 OUIJA
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 SURF'S UP
4 LICENSE TO WED
5 BLADES OF GLORY
6 A LOVE STORY

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 SINKING OF JAPAN
2 BLADES OF GLORY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SURF'S UP

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 A LOVE STORY
2 FRACTURE/ A LOVE STORY
3 BLADES OF GLORY
4 SURF'S UP

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 BLADES OF GLORY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 SURF'S UP
2 LICENSE TO WED
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 A LOVE STORY

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 OUIJA
5 BLADES OF GLORY
6 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 A LOVE STORY/ BLADES OF GLORY
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 A LOVE STORY
5 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 BLADES OF GLORY
7 RESERVED
8 RATATOUILLE

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 A LOVE STORY
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 SURF'S UP
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 BLADES OF GLORY
7 A LOVE STORY
8 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 A LOVE STORY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Directing

DIRECTORS AGREE THAT handling stars is different from working with non-luminaries. Many name performers become popular not really because they're great talents, but because they're good-looking.

Beautiful or handsome people tend to be inordinately self-focused, and even self-absorbed. So, when you ask them to portray a character, they have a harder time than others. Since they love themselves too much, they can't "disappear" into the character they've been assigned to play, as actors are supposed to do.

Thus, to help stars come up with good performances, their directors have to motivate them to realize that there's more to an actor's life than self-love, and that greater satisfaction (and awards!) can be attained by finally, *really* creating a character other than himself.

Another problem stars have is the fact that many of them become famous for playing mainly one type of role.

Playing safe

AS A result, they play safe and keep portraying pretty much the same role in production after production, because they think that's what their fans want them to do.

So, it's hard for a director to persuade them to play other kinds of people.

To wean stars away from their "signature" roles, directors have to convince them that they're wrong, that their fans *don't* want them to play it safe, that in fact they want variety, range and depth in their portrayals and that they want to be surprised by their latest performances.

Even after stars agree to do something new and risky, however, a director's work has only just begun. He must then guide clueless stars through the complex, demanding process of creating a different character—which is partly based

---

MARICEL Soriano and Aga Muhlach

'A Love Story' shows ...

From page D1

have endured all the storms without Vicki's support, which always serves as my light to find my way back home.

Without going into details (Vicki would rather keep her innermost feelings between us), I am saddened that some of her former friends and colleagues keep trying to pull her down. I know how she would try to do even the impossible for a friend.

It's just too bad that some people let their long-standing friendship with Vicki go to waste for the most preposterous reasons. Many doctors who are all trying desperately to equal Vicki have sprouted in the show biz scene. But nobody can ever beat Vicki in the friendship department no matter how hard they try.

E-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com.

g stars to perform beyond standard stellar flourishes

on the actor's sensitivity to other people.

Since stars tend to focus on themselves rather than on others, they have to unlearn their egocentric behavior and start to really care about other people.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Only after they do this can actors understand their new character's behavior needs, emotions, thoughts, aspirations, etc., well enough to convincingly "be" him.

It's a tall order and a long process, but some stars are able to work through it—and they're often amazed at the transformation in themselves. At last, they are no longer just beautiful and popular personalities, but also actors in the true sense of the word.

This process is actually being taught in studio-based talent centers and workshops, but these tend to be too quickly results-oriented. Especially for actors doing most of their work on TV, the process is too expediently speeded up, so production deadlines can be met.

The result is a lack of thought, integration and time for creative nuance and detailing—which explains why TV performances, even by otherwise gifted and insightful actors, are often too pat and predictable.

So, what's the solution? TV production exigencies generally work against happy endings in this regard. But TV actors can help improve their chances for coming up with better performances by asking for their scripts ahead of time, to give them greater leeway in terms of preparation and character creation.

Going through all of this, it becomes clearer that, while stardom has many perks, it could also limit some thespians' opportunities to become true actors. That's why directors need to set high standards, instead of just feeding off a star's signature persona.

And, for their own good, stars shouldn't rest on their laurels and strive to stretch their creative limits every time they perform. Otherwise, they could end up as has-beens long before their time has fade away.

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CINEMA 2 RISE 11:50, 2:05, 4:20 6:35, 8:50 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
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CINEMA 3 SURFS UP 10:45, 12:40, 2:35 4:30, 6:25, 8:20 10:15 GP
CINEMA 4 RUSH HOUR 3 10:35, 12:35, 2:35 4:35, 6:35, 8:35 10:35 PG-13
CINEMA 5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM 11:05, 1:55, 4:45 7:35, 10:30 PG-13
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August 24 & 25, 2007 — Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez — 8:00 PM
September 15, 2007 — Rico J. w/ Ruffa Mae — 8:00 PM

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Aug. 18, 24, 31, Sept. 7, 21, 28, 2007 — Drag - Ons — 10:00 PM
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BOURNE ULTIMATUM 11:35 / 2:05 / 4:35 / 7:05 / 10:00
RUSH HOUR 3 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
RISE 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45
RATATOUILLE 1:55 / 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25
BOURNE ULTIMATUM 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
AliMALL 5
1 OUIJA BOARD 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
2 RUSH HOUR 3 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
4 RISE 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
5 A LOVE STORY 1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30
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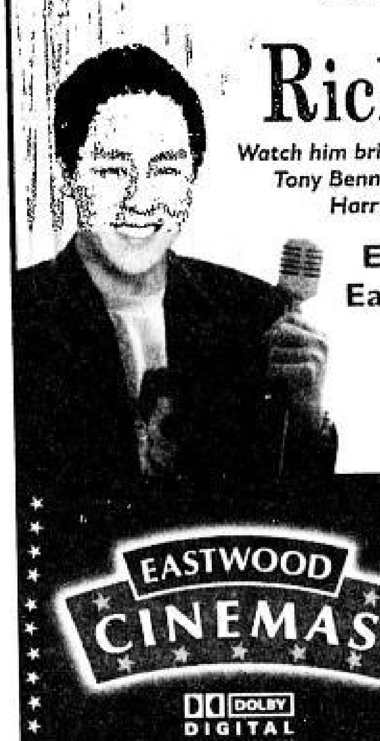

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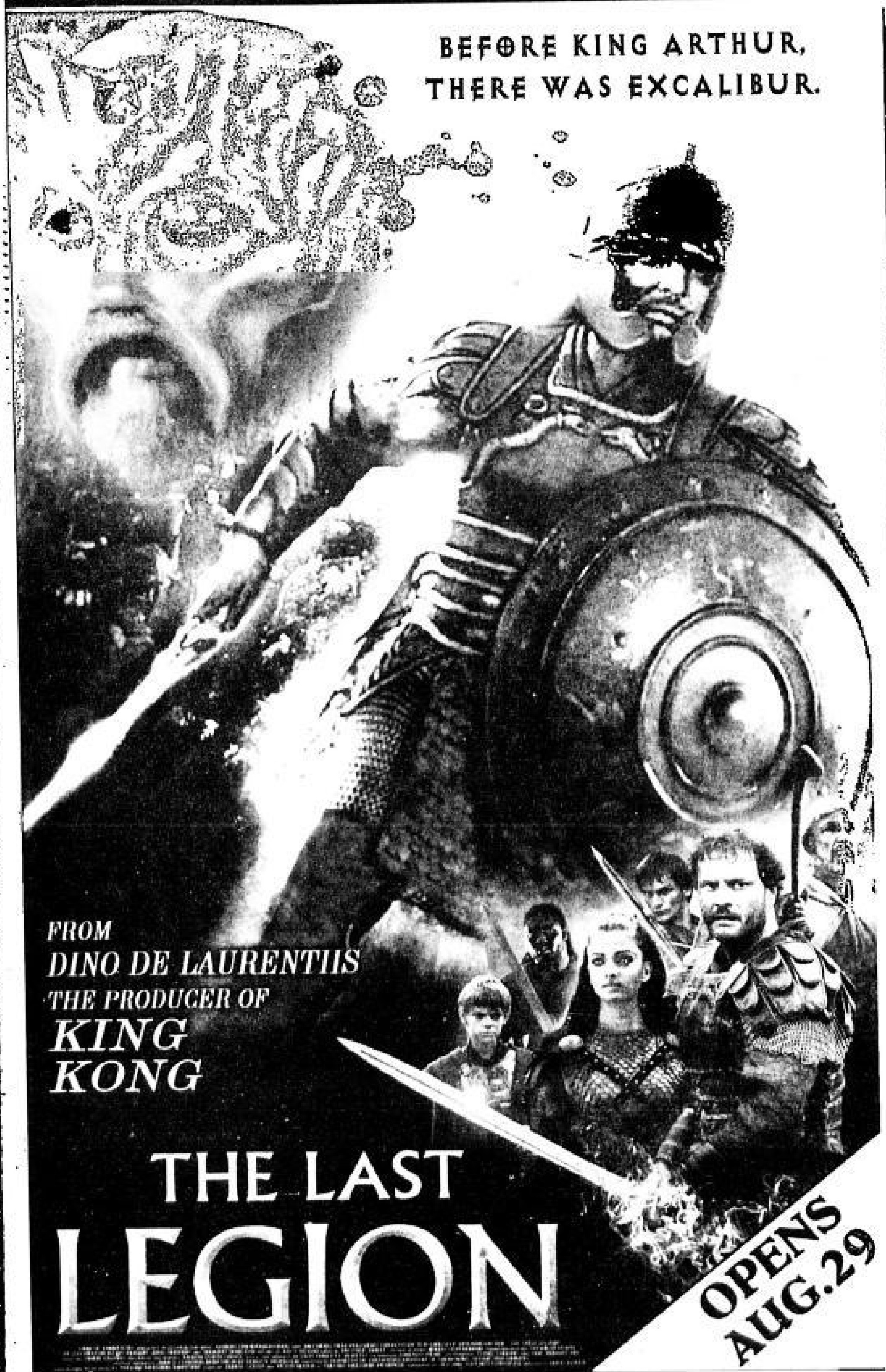
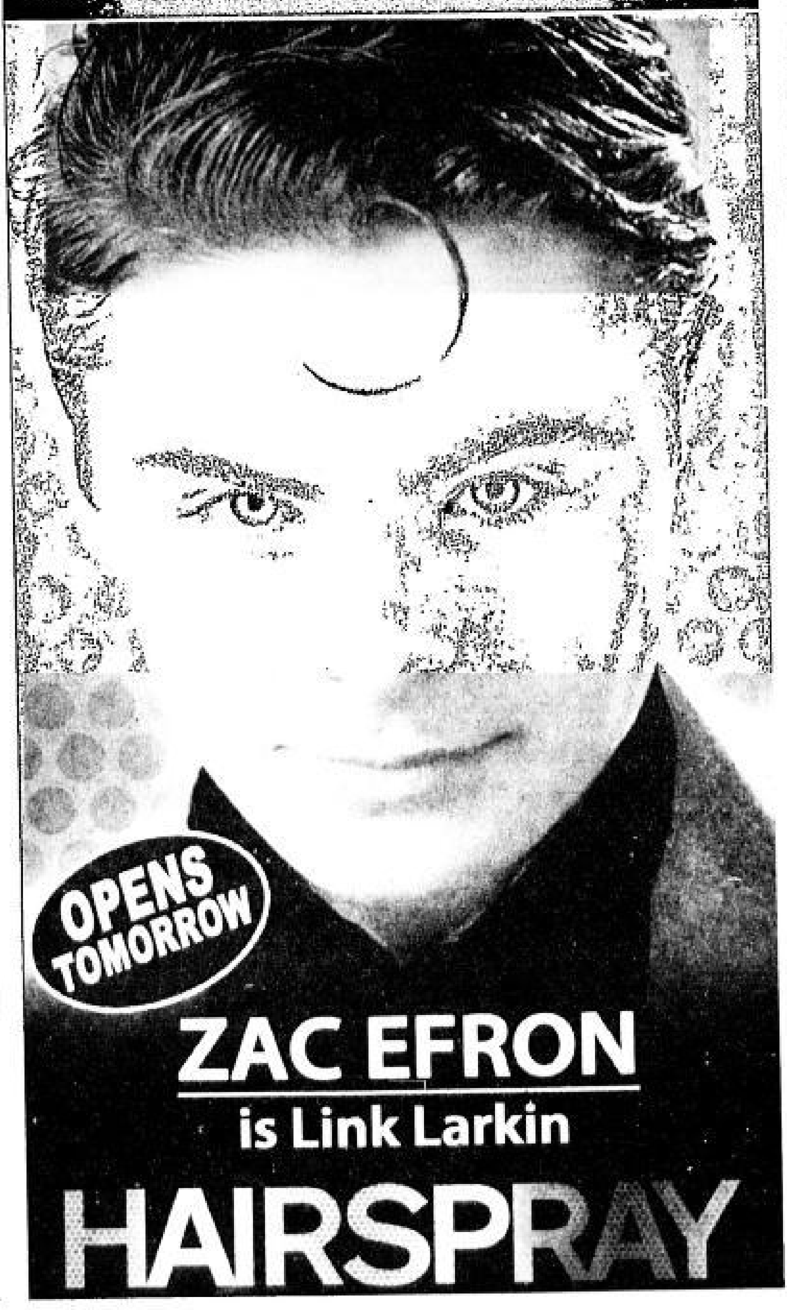
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 12:05, 2:40, 5:25, 8:10, 11:05 PG-13
3 SURF'S UP 1:05, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 10:00 G
4 RUSH HOUR 3 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13

WITNESS THE SPECTACULAR FINAL BATTLE UNLIKE ANY YOU HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE.
IN THE TRADITION OF '300' COMES ANOTHER HISTORICAL EPIC THAT DEPICTS THE COURAGE OF A FEW LEGIONNAIRES WHO FOUGHT AGAINST AN ARMY 5 TIMES BIGGER AND WON.



BEFORE KING ARTHUR, THERE WAS EXCALIBUR.
FROM DINO DE LAURENTIIS THE PRODUCER OF KING KONG
THE LAST LEGION
OPENS AUG.29

MTRCB G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
$108,679,524
TOTAL BOX-OFFICE GROSS AS OF 08/13/2007
THE BIGGEST U.S. OPENING ON RECORD FOR A MUSICAL



MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR - 3
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) SURF'S UP

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR - 3

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 A LOVE STORY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) RUSH HOUR - 3
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994
1 A LOVE STORY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 RUSH HOUR - 3
4 SURF'S UP

THEATRES
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SPIRIT TRAP

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena tel (042) 660-6271
1 A LOVE STORY
2 OUIJA
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR - 3
3 A LOVE STORY
4 A LOVE STORY
5 SURF'S UP
6 RUSH HOUR - 3
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 OUIJA
9 RATATOUILLE
10 RISE

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY
2 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR - 3
3 (DOLBY) SURFS UP
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 A LOVE STORY
5 RUSH HOUR - 3

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 A LOVE STORY
2 OUIJA
3 CASA
4 THREE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURSF UP
3 RUSH HOUR - 3

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURSF UP

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 LICENSE TO WED
3 SURSF UP
4 A LOVE STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 A LOVE STORY
2 OUIJA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR - 3
2 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 (DOLBY) SURSF UP
4 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SURSF UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 OUIJA
2 A LOVE STORY
3 CASA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 OUIJA
2 A LOVE STORY
3 PREMONITION
4 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURFS UP

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 A LOVE STORY
2 OUIJA

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SINKING JAPAN
2 OUIJA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 OUIJA
2 MATAMIS HANGANG DULO
3 SALAT SA LIGAYA
4 LICENSE TO WED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 A LOVE STORY
2 KAINAN SA HIGHWAY
3 SURF'S UP
4 OUIJA
5 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CASA
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SINKING JAPAN
4 SURF'S UP

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MOLATA
2 HAYOP SA PORMA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL AUDIENCE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

OPENS TOMORROW

$108,679,524

TOTAL BOX-OFFICE GROSS AS OF 08/13/2007

THE BIGGEST U.S. OPENING ON RECORD FOR A MUSICAL

John Travolta Michelle Pfeiffer Amanda Bynes Zac Efron James Marsden and Queen Latifah

HAIRSPRAY

Brittany Snow Christopher Walken Elijah Kelley Allison Janney introducing Nikki Blonsky

SHOW TIME

Waste not, concert artists told

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THE #1 MOVIE NATIONWIDE!

ONE KICKS HARD...THE OTHER TALKS FAST

PERFECT COMBINATION

FROM BRETT RATNER THE DIRECTOR OF "X-MEN 3: THE LAST STAND"

3RD WEEK

JACKIE CHAN CHRIS TUCKER

RUSH HOUR 3

BAMBOO

BAGUIO CITY—MUSICIAN BAMBOO rocked the summer capital last week in a corporate-sponsored gig that drew hundreds of fans. But a proposed ordinance now says concert artists may only perform here if they help regulate the trash generated by their fans.

Raising its environmental policy a notch higher, the city council discussed on Monday a measure that would require performers in live concerts that attract a large audience to prepare their own waste recycling programs before they could perform.

Bamboo's concert attracted at least 500 people who left behind 200 kilograms of trash, the city environment office reported.

The solid waste management program's recycling projects in the barangay may reduce the city's daily waste average by 25 percent in one year, and controlling waste in live concerts and other activities would help the city attain that target, said Nazita Bañez, city environment officer. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Acoustic ballads

Romy Jorolan of Acoustic Jive and Joey Bautista of Mullato perform acoustic ballads every Wednesday and Saturday, respectively, for the whole month of August at UCC Park Cafe. Glorietta, Makati.

Show time is at 7 p.m. Call 818-7442 or 818-7447.

Aug. 25

The CompanY at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati.

Call Ticketworld at 891-5610, 891-9999 or 750-8888

Freestyle at Green Coral Resort, Batangas City.

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GLORIETTA 1	RISE	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	RUSH HOUR 3	A LOVE STORY			
GLORIETTA 4	A LOVE STORY	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	THX THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS	THE LOOKOUT	SURF'S UP	RUSH HOUR 3	THE SIMPSONS
GREENBELT 1	A LOVE STORY	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM					
GREENBELT 3	THX THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS	THX RUSH HOUR 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	RATATOUILLE GUARANTEED SEATS	SURF'S UP GUARANTEED SEATS	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	A LOVE STORY	RUSH HOUR 3	SURF'S UP	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	RUSH HOUR 3	A LOVE STORY	SURF'S UP			
MARKET! MARKET!	A LOVE STORY	SURF'S UP	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	RISE	RUSH HOUR 3		
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	A LOVE STORY	RATATOUILLE	RISE GUARANTEED SEATS	SURF'S UP GUARANTEED SEATS	RUSH HOUR 3	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	THX THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:

Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	C2 Event August 18, 2007 at the Activity Center
GREENBELT	Shop & Travel at Greenbelt 1 Promo Get a chance to win exciting prizes and a trip for two to Boracay for every P300 worth of purchase at any Greenbelt 1 establishment from July 1 to September 30, 2007
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Mechanical Action August 17 to 19; 11 am, 3 pm & 6 pm at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Uyfang Kiosk August 3 to 30, 2007 at the AFEC Access
MARKET! MARKET!	Veggie Superkids August 18, 2007 at the Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Elements Photoconstructed Realities August 16 to 29, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	NU 107: Pocket Concert 07 August 23, 2007 at the Activity Center Luxury Car Exhibits August 24 to 30, 2007 at the Activity Center

EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE

NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

IT SPINS A WEB THAT WILL PULL YOU IN. A thriller that really thrills." Peter Travers

JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT JEFF DANIELS MATTHEW GOODE ISLA FISHER

THE LOOKOUT

FROM THE SCREENWRITER OF OUT OF SIGHT AND GET SHORTY

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

"A MASTERPIECE. ★★★★! I LOVED THIS MOVIE. AN ACCOMPLISHED WORK OF ART."

USA TODAY "★★★★! A HAUNTING, ENGROSSING AND INTELLIGENT THRILLER."

Los Angeles Times "... A REAL PLEASURE TO WATCH... ... A SKILLFULL THRILLER."

Rolling Stone "★★★★! A KNOCKOUT. IT SPINS A WEB THAT WILL PULL YOU IN. A thriller that really thrills." Peter Travers

SALE! SALE!

Come to Market! Market! on August 17 to 19 for great bargains!

Fri - Sat: 10am - 10pm
Sun: 10am - 9pm

Plus, catch the PBA Rookie Draft at the Activity Center on Aug. 19 at 12nn.

PER DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-273, Series of 2007

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma